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6 September 1985

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ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

TURKISH SOURCES COMMENT ON 'HOLOCAUST MUSEUM' FUNDING

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 3 Aug 85 p 1

[Article: "Deukmejian Approves 5 Million Dollar Funding Appropriation for Holocaust Museum"]

[Text] Dateline Los Angeles. California Governor George Deukmejian yesterday signed a bill authorizing the expenditure of 5 million dollars to help fund a museum for the purpose of reminding future generations of the 20th-century genocides.

This museum, founded by famed NAZI HUNTER Simon Wiesenthal, is also a "Genocide Research Center," with Rabbi Marvin Hier serving as museum chairman. The museum will cost 35 million dollars and will deal not only with the "act of systematic extermination of Jews during World War II but will also honor the memory of Cambodians killed by revolutionary forces, and will pass on to posterity the story of the struggle between the Armenians and Turks during the years 1894-1915." Rabbi Hier has announced that to date 12 million dollars has been given by private donors for the museum, to be erected on a 4,924 square meter site, and that the problem of funding has been greatly eased with the 5 million dollars in assistance approved by Deukmejian.

It has been noted in this connection that at the beginning of the year California Governor George Deukmejian had vetoed the expenditure of 4 million dollars which was provided in the state's budget for the funding of special museums. The governor, who is of Armenian descent, has, however, approved a 5 million dollar appropriation to help fund the "museum of 20th century genocides," which, he was promised, would also display documents pertaining to the alleged Armenian Genocide. As he signed the bill, the governor stated that it is very important for Californians to be aware of the lessons of the genocide. The museum will be laid out in the manner of museums in the Anglo-Saxon countries, with the materials arranged according to that culture.

President Reagan's stand on this matter is explained by the fact that he holds California to be very important and does not want to offend the people of that state, as well as his personal friendship with Governor George Deukmejian. Nor should one forget that he was a Californian and served as governor of California prior to being elected President of the United States.

8817

CSO: 4605/203

EGYPT

SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER CRITICIZED ABOUT PERSONAL STATUS LAW

Cairo AL-I'TISAM in Arabic Jun-Jul 85 pp 36-37

[Text] Dr Amal 'Uthman, social affairs minister, has played a strange and astonishing role ever since she took charge of the ministry. Lately some facts have been uncovered surrounding her role in preparing, presenting and passing personal status law no 44 of 1979 A.D., which was unconstitutional and which the supreme constitutional court recently repealed.

Dr 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Nimr said in statements to AL-WAFD newspaper that the aforementioned had submitted the bill containing certain items contrary to the religion and the foundations of Islamic law, such as it being necessary for a divorce to occur before a judge in the presence of witnesses, something which is not mentioned in any text or guide in any one of the schools of thought of Islamic jurisprudence!

The lady minister is now leading a campaign against scholars of religion and Islamic legislation, and she is directing some women to hold women's conferences and festivals to criticize what the religion says and to call for a suspect law that is contrary to Islam and legislation, and sanctifies subordination to the West, and paves the way to changing Egypt into a "Catholic" state which repudiates the rights granted by God with respect to polygamy and divorce, divorce [initiated by the woman, for which she pays compensation] and inheritance, along with exploiting the choking population crisis, which was created by the Nasirite 30 years ago.

As an unreleased professor of law in the College of Law at Tanta University, the minister would be the first to know that passage of Statute 44/1979 was unconstitutional, and that the president of the republic who signed it was violating item 147 of the constitution. Indeed, he committed the violation deliberately, according to what has been said by those who participated in drafting the disgraceful law, when he expressed his belief that the parliament would not consent to it. Therefore the minister's conduct was shameful and illegal, considering that she is a professor of law.

What the minister did was a breach of her intellectual and administrative duty. The day she became minister, she swore to respect the constitution, but she broke the oath and violated the constitution, and hid behind both knowledge and the position.

We are therefore faced with a serious precedent, which a sound democratic life cannot tolerate. It is deviation from the constitutional path that the nation follows, and that makes it necessary for the various parties to take a stand on this lady's conduct, especially since she is perfectly able to understand the constitution and its stipulations, and had she sensed an intellectual deficiency, she could have asked her husband for help, since he is a man of the law as well, and works with her at the same university.

I believe that the other sides that are concerned with preserving the constitution and respect for the law, such as the bar association and colleges of law in the various universities and especially Tanta University, in addition to the public prosecutor, will not hesitate to take the stand that national duty requires in this area.

The thing that comes to mind in this connection is that the lady ministers who have been in the cabinet in our country have all despised the application of Islamic law and its rulings. One of them was frankly hostile to her religion, and sanctioned an openly heretical philosophy, and another scoffed at religion in her councils.

Some say about one of them, that one day she said to the people she was speaking to:

"Your religion (she meant Islam) makes my doorman's testimony more important than my testimony." !!

Faced with this behavior that is hostile to the religion and disobedient to God, we ask:

When will people stop turning to the likes of such ladies?

Is there some hidden secret, or is political and legal expertise limited to them?

We do not believe that we will get an answer from anyone, but it is certain that the way of truth must prevail some day, and that this minister will inevitably leave the ministry, and the university will inevitably call her to account for her violation of the law and the constitution. As for her assault on Islamic law, her reckoning is with God.

EGYPT

ISLAMIC MAGAZINE BLASTS INFORMATION MINISTER

Cairo AL-I'TISAM in Arabic Jun-Jul 85 p 2

[Text] The exalted month of Ramadan is the annual occasion during which hearts and souls are purified, and Muslims try to get back what they lost during the year because of faults and shortcomings, so that through repentance they can return to God pure and righteous. That is some of what is understood by people of what the Almighty said: "The month of Ramadan is that in which the Qur'an was sent down as a guidance for mankind with clear proofs of guidance and discrimination. Therefore, whosoever of you is present in this month, let him fast therein." And from this that the Almighty said: "Oh you who believe! Fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may be righteous." One of the signs of piety is purity in all its forms: spiritual, physical, psychological, corporal, emotional and mental.

So if someone comes along who perverts these signs and sullies the purity of life for Muslims during the month of Ramadan, we say to him, "Fear God, for God does not love perverters, and He is aware of what they do, and surrounds them."

We say these words on the occasion of the glorious month of Ramadan, on the occasion of what was offered by the television of Mr Safwat al-Sharif, the minister of information, during this exalted month. It is incomprehensible that people should be seeking purity while he is being "clever". It is incomprehensible that Islam should urge people to use Ramadan as an opportunity for prayer, remembrance, supplication, devotion, fasting and almsgiving, while Safwat al-Sharif's television goes after fun and frolic and wantonness and drowning the people with stupid, futile things. It is incomprehensible that Muslims' goal should be to find seclusion so they can read the glorious Qur'an, the honored Hadith, and righteous thought, while the goal of Safwat al-Sharif's television is to occupy the people with contests, games, foreign and local serials, worldly stories and dancing girls, and to occupy the people for 20 hours, almost.

It is therefore a crime against God, and against Muslims. It is a crime that deserves the curse of God and the angels, and of all people.

Therefore, we say in all sincerity to Mr Safwat al-Sharif:
Regardless of any considerations, fear God, Safwat, and be a servant to the worship of God, not a servant of the devil.

12547

CSO: 4504/435

EGYPT

GOVERNMENT, OPPOSITION FIGURES DIFFER OVER RELIGIOUS LAW

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 24-30 Jul 85 pp 16-18

[Article by Jamal 'Inayat and Yasir Fathat: "AL-MAJALLAH Records a Journalistic Confrontation between the Government and the New Leaders of the Religious Current in Egypt"]

[Text] Before the end of the latest Egyptian parliamentary session, Dr Rif-'at al-Mahjub, chairman of the parliament, stood up to declare the closing of discussions on the application of Islamic laws.

Dr al-Mahjub fell silent and after that a sequence of successive events began which assumed the form of actions and reactions. The sequence lasted for a long period. The statements of the chairman of parliament resembled a stone thrown into water which started to make circles around itself that grew the farther they got from the center.

At that time a building which was still under construction, the al-Nur mosque in the al-'Abbasiyah section of Cairo, came to the forefront of events. In the center of this building, the name of Hafiz Salamah came to the forefront of individuals.

Shaykh Salamah declared that he and a group of his supporters were holding a parade to the home of the president, in which Korans would be held on high, and in the course of it they would request him "immediately" to apply Islamic law.

Meanwhile the security agencies and a large number of writers rejected the idea of the parade. These people asked what the reaction would be if these Korans fell to the ground or, God forbid, they were trod underfoot.

Although no one was against the idea of applying Islamic law, most of the protesters concentrated their objections on the method. The sheikh of al-Azhar issued a statement in which he said that the application of Islamic law would come about not as a result of the style of demonstrations and parades but rather through calm, objective dialogue. Shaykh 'Umar al-Talmasani, the leader of the Society of Moslem Brothers, also declared his rejection of this method, which would lead to dissension.

Shaykh Salamah and his group nonetheless insisted on holding the parade and presenting the matter to the judiciary. The al-Nur mosque, the Islamic Guidance Society which had erected the mosque and Shaykh Hafiz Salamah became the three most important subjects in the Western media.

Although the situation did not merit all this media attention, the television cameras, recorders and foreign correspondents' pens talked with, about and concerning these three centers -- the Guidance Society, the al-Nur mosque and Hafiz Salamah -- without letup.

Shaykh Salamah requested the parade and the Ministry of Religious Endowments decided to take over the mosque and a number of others.

The ministry delegated Shaykh Isma'il Sadiq al-'Adawi to be the giver of sermons in the al-Nur mosque; Shaykh Salamah and his group prevented him from giving the Friday sermon.

Shaykh Salamah demanded that a conference be held in 'Abidin Square (one of the most important squares in Cairo), and the Ministry of the Interior refused.

Shaykh Salamah rejected that and brought the matter before the judiciary. The Interior [Ministry] agreed that the conference could be held in Madinat Nasr (a Cairo suburb).

Shaykh Salamah rejected that and submitted a complaint regarding the case. The security bodies seized publications in his possession which advocated provoking and stirring up disgust for the existing regime, and it was decided to hold an investigation on him.

AL-MAJALLAH met with the parties to the issue and held a conversation with Shaykh Hafiz Salamah before the publications were seized in his possession and the investigation was held on him. It also held a wide conversation with Dr Muhammad al-Ahmadi Abu al-Nur, the minister of religious endowments. At the same time, AL-MAJALLAH was able exclusively to record one of the sessions of conciliation which the Ministry of Religious Endowments tried to hold with Shaykh Salamah, in an attempt on its part to calm things down.

What does each of these parties say?

The First Side: What Does Salamah Say?

AL-MAJALLAH: What is the story behind the parade you were intending to hold?

Shaykh Salamah: For years, once it was stipulated in the constitution that Islamic law was the main source of legislation, we have been demanding that this constitutional article be applied. In actuality, the Egyptian parliament began to draw up numerous drafts at its last session. However, after the start of the latest session, we demanded the members of parliament to commit themselves to the promise they had previously made. A large number of them started to respond to this demand, but we were surprised to find the chairman of the Egyptian parliament, Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, saying "There are

no codified laws in the assembly's possession." When a dispute occurred between the chairman of the parliament and the deputies regarding the application, we considered it proper to hold a parade in which we would hold God's book on high and proceed toward the president. Before thinking about going out on parade, we asked the Egyptian minister of the interior to allow us this parade, but he objected. It was necessary to seek recourse to the judiciary. After a number of sessions, the judiciary concluded that we were entitled to hold the parade, while postponing it, in view of the fears the Ministry of the Interior had expressed that elements which would promote strife and destruction would infiltrate the parade. We then demanded that a general conference be held in 'Abidin square. However, the Ministry of the Interior demanded that the conference be held in Madinat Nasr and we submitted a complaint to the judiciary.

AL-MAJALLAH: Do you believe that the Egyptians support you in what you are doing?

Shaykh Salamah: The Egyptian people declared their agreement and receptivity to the application of Islamic law in the referendum held earlier.

AL-MAJALLAH: We are talking not about the application of Islamic law but the style of demonstrations. Is that Islam?

Shaykh Salamah: I said parade, I did not say demonstration.

AL-MAJALLAH: The Egyptian parliament contains a number of religious figures. Wouldn't coordination with them guarantee this mission, rather than parades and gatherings, which might involve disrupting security?

Shaykh Salamah: The holding of demonstrations and parades is our right by the constitution, secular law and Islamic law.

AL-MAJALLAH: Therefore you advocate parades and demonstrations.

Shaykh Salamah: There is a difference between secular and Islamic law. Parades exist in Islamic law. After 'Umar, may God be content with him, had declared that he had become a Moslem, the prophet, on whom be God's prayers and peace, went out on a parade from the House of al-Arqam to the inviolate house of God with his companions.

AL-MAJALLAH: Do you believe that a strong religious current exists in Egypt?

Shaykh Salamah: Praise God, the local and international media have acknowledged that Egypt has a religious people committed to their religion.

AL-MAJALLAH: What is the concept of extremism, as far as you are concerned?

Shaykh Salamah: Extremism is a new expression the media have started to promote and apply to everyone who is committed to his religion.

AL-MAJALLAH: The al-Nur mosque is now a meeting place for young people of various tendencies and numerous religious groups. All of them find the scope, in your midst, to say what they want, whether it is right or wrong.

Shaykh Salamah (interrupting): This is an incorrect evaluation. Praise God, only competent scholars have ascended the pulpit of the call to Islam in the al-Nur mosque; how can it be said of us that there are people from numerous Islamic groups coming to the mosque to declare their opinions and goals?

AL-MAJALLAH: But 'Abdallah al-Samawi (one of the members of the extremist religious groups), who is one of the leaders of the group, did ascend the mosque pulpit.

Shaykh Salamah (sharply): He ascended it only when the time for prayer came and we were late in getting to the pulpit. That is the first time al-Samawi spoke in the al-Nur mosque. He asked me before that but I did not give my agreement.

AL-MAJALLAH: Can we go back a little and learn the story of the al-Nur mosque from the beginning?

Shaykh Salamah: The al-Nur mosque, or the al-Nur organization and the Islamic center attached to it, were built in the seventies, and construction and building activity on it has continued up to now. Prayers are being held in empty areas of the building, in the school or elsewhere, until construction of the mosque is completed, God willing. A decree was issued earlier incorporating the mosque in the Ministry of Religious Endowments. This decree was not applied but the ministry recently appointed a giver of sermons and workers in the mosque. We submitted the matter to the judiciary and said that the place on which the incorporation decree was issued was a schoolyard; is it in the minister of religious endowment's power to annex a schoolyard?

AL-MAJALLAH: The Egyptian minister of religious endowments said that the appointment of a giver of sermons and workers for the mosque are in the context of the ministry's responsibility for the call to Islam.

Shaykh Salamah: I in my capacity as chairman of the Islamic Guidance Society have committed myself to Law 23 for 1964 on societies which determines the goals and activities of societies. We are a society which builds mosques, supervises them technically and administratively and gives lessons, exhortations and Friday sermons.

AL-MAJALLAH: Some Western news agencies have described you as a carbon copy of Khomeyni.

Shaykh Salamah: We are not people seeking positions. As far as the Khomeyni revolution goes, I believe that every act has its negative and positive aspects. We hear news about it from various directions and have not heard anything about it personally. I cannot judge.

The Second Side: The Minister of Religious Endowments Talks

AL-MAJALLAH: We would like to learn the point of view of the top official for religious affairs in Egypt regarding the al-Nur mosque events which took place recently.

The minister of religious endowments: The ministry's point of view can be simply summarized in its responsibility for all the mosques in Egypt, in the towns or villages, whether incorporated or not incorporated. This is the ministry's basic responsibility and a trust which it bears.

It is the ministry's responsibility to appoint givers of sermons, imams, people making the call to prayer and mosque employees who are fit for these positions, whether it is the ministry, the Moslem masses or the philanthropic societies or even intrinsic efforts which have built the mosque. It is civilized society anywhere which regulates the apportionment of responsibilities on the basis of jurisdictions and areas of specialization. The Ministry of Health is responsible for hospitals, Education is responsible for schools, whether they are private or public, and Religious Endowments is responsible for the mosques. In this regard, the responsibility of the Ministry of Religious Endowments is defined as arranging for competent specialized imams and proselytizers who are steeped in the jurisprudence of the principles of religion. There might have been a period when the ministry was not able totally to supervise all Egypt's mosques because its resources were limited, but the ministry has been given every resource today since the Egyptian government has decided to give the ministry 20 million Egyptian pounds in addition to its specific annual budget. Therefore, we will not seek to perform the trust and responsibility we have borne in full in all mosques by appointment or delegation and will perform this duty from the premise of cooperation, not monopoly. We do not say that we monopolize the appeal for the reason that we will give every competent person, even people who have not graduated from al-Azhar University, a chance as long as they are deeply versed in their religion and understand their lord's book and the sayings and doings of their prophet, to the extent that that qualifies them for the trust, the giving of sermons and the exercise of rituals. We are not binding the givers of sermons to anything other than what the book and the sayings and doings of the prophet bind them to, in substantiation of the statement of almighty God: "State good things to people" and the almighty's statement "Appeal to the path of your lord through wisdom and good exhortation."

AL-MAJALLAH: How would this statement apply to what has happened as far as the al-Nur mosque goes? Some people claim that the ministry does not have the right to incorporate the al-Nur mosque, on grounds that it is subordinated to the Ministry of Social Affairs.

The minister of religious endowments: Any philanthropic society which gives notice of its existence engages in its activity in total freedom in the light of the law which grants permission for this from the Ministry of Social Affairs. This law, which gives it this right, keeps its religious activity part of the responsibility of the Ministry of Religious Endowments. If the ministry's resources permit it to incorporate this mosque, there is no harm in that. Otherwise, it will leave the mosque to the society to administer until the ministry is able to effect incorporation, on the condition that there be coordination with them and investigation of them. The incorporation of mosques is subject not to people's desires but to the resources of the government, because the mosque consists of a court, jurisprudence, devotion, treatment and clubs, and we want to be sure (as a body that has

jurisdiction) that anyone who leads people in prayer is perspicacious about his religion. However, that does not mean that people who are competent are coopted. The ministry makes the challenge that it has not issued any publications or directives speaking about a specific matter. We are not the givers of sermons on behalf of the authorities, as is said; we are people proselytizing for God through wisdom and good exhortation.

AL-MAJALLAH: The name of Shaykh Hafiz Salamah has risen to the forefront of events in the recent period in a very conspicuous manner. What do Shaykh Salamah and his group want?

The minister of religious endowments: Ask him about what he wants. He is better aware of his intentions. Everyone has his innermost thoughts. What people want is hidden in their conscience. However, I would like to say that all Islamic tendencies are asking for Islamic law, and we are on their side in this objective and with respect to the need to purge the laws of everything which is in violation of Islamic law. I do not believe and do not consider that there is anyone in Egypt who disputes this principle.

AL-MAJALLAH: Isn't that what Shaykh Salamah is asking for?

The minister of religious endowments: There might be some ways of realizing the goal of applying [Islamic law] over which we might have differences with some people. Some people imagine that that must occur through violence and not a gradual approach, while some other people are calling for the elimination of the gradual approach. These are matters of dispute which must not cause a split in what people say as long as we have concurred over goals. Therefore dialogue, and not something else, must be the master of the situation.

AL-MAJALLAH: Is the style of demonstrations viable though?

The minister of religious endowments: We do not approve of any method which leads to national and factional strife. I agree with what our earliest scholars said, that it is necessary to thwart excuses, that deterring acts of corruption takes precedence over the appeal to people's interests and we must suppress things from which the odor of the thought of strife or evil for the society or the individual might emanate, out of concern for all the people. I want mutual trust to exist among the members of the unified society so that we will not embarrass anyone and not insult anyone. Rather, everyone must act to realize the goal through the secure path which is not in violation in terms of the book or the sayings and doings of the prophet.

AL-MAJALLAH: Some people give Shaykh Salamah and his group the label "extremists." Do you agree with this label or is yours a different view?

The minister of religious endowments: I do not find this label good at all and do not want it to exist. Rather, they are a faction which is zealous about its religion. This zeal over religion may consist of an excessive dose of religious devotion and the conception in the view of one group may be contrary to the development which exists with the other. We must respect anyone who says "there is no God but Allah" and each of us must respect the

other, even if they differ over their opinions, because we are anxious to have the people of the nation all concur over a single platform and a single road. If we say "These people are extremists" and these extremists say that we are infidels, society will turn into factions and parties and this could be the beginning of struggle in the unified society.

AL-MAJALLAH: You have addressed yourself to the essence of the dispute, which is Islamic law. Shaykh Salamah and his group consider that Islamic law is not being applied, while others consider that it is. What is your opinion concerning this dispute?

The minister of religious endowments: Both groups are looking from one angle. The group which says that Islamic law is not being applied looks at the Islamic law which has not been applied, and the other group, which says that this society is Moslem, looks at the positive Islamic aspects which actually have been applied. As a consequence, both groups are right in what they are viewing. However, what I would like to say is that we must be wary about making generalizations about these sorts of issues because the society is Moslem and applies Islamic law, and families here are conservative and adhere to their religion because when we are realistic we see that many of our provisions adopt Islam and issue forth from it. Nothing is left but for us to fulfil the application, and that is something over which there is no dispute.

AL-MAJALLAH: What is your opinion about Shaykh Salamah?

The minister of religious endowments: He is a good man. We are not making accusations of anyone, and I would like it to be a positive conference regarding everything that is considered to be enthusiasm. He is a man who has his experience, his past and his ability to influence as well. Would that he could bring everyone together, even those who disagree with him with respect to opinions, for the good of this society.

AL-MAJALLAH: The people who oppose the decree incorporating the mosque say that that came only after it was announced that the parade would be held and that it is not a mosque but an Islamic institution.

The minister of religious endowments: This mosque actually was incorporated in the ministry in 1981; what was declared recently was just an assertion of the fact of incorporation, since some people have pretended to forget that a mosque that has been incorporated is subject to the supervision of the ministry. The point that it is not a mosque but a courtyard, as some people say, is wrong because as long as the Friday prayer takes place within it it is a mosque bringing people together, since that is held there on a regular basis every week and this has become well known. A mosque in Islam does not need all the buildings which are being built; it just requires that the direction of prayer and the place be set. When people turn in the direction of prayer and the pulpit and pray behind an imam, that is a mosque. The word authorizes the mosque and the word is the responsibility of the ministry, according to the duty the law has assigned to it. We are not taking anything which is not ours; indeed, that is our right.

AL-MAJALLAH: Shaykh Salamah mentioned in statements to the press that a case is being reviewed by the Egyptian judiciary stating that the society, rather than the ministry, has precedence over supervision.

The minister of religious endowments: We do not want the dispute between us to become aggravated to such an extent. However, in any case, if the situation requires it, there will be nothing wrong in our seeking the arbitration of the law, because it is the law which has given us this right, and legal responsibility does not exempt the ministry from the matter of the holding of religious rites everywhere on Egypt's territory.

AL-MAJALLAH: Couldn't you, however, agree to the Islamic Guidance Society's demand that they be allowed to choose the giver of sermons in the mosque, since they have been accustomed to that?

The minister of religious endowments: There must be a bridge to this end. This bridge is the request of permission from the ministry. We do not as I have said have a monopoly on discussion. We welcome every proselytizer who has competence as long as he is committed, but not on the basis where he rushes into the lion's den without seeking the permission of the person who has the word concerning the mosque, the Ministry of Religious Endowments.

AL-MAJALLAH: Do you approve of the principle of differences in opinion?

The minister of religious endowments: Differences in opinion are a necessity. Differences and opposition are a necessity which is dictated by life and opposition is necessary because without opposition we will not become informed of mature views, good ideas and creative plans. A government which does not accept opposition is a weak one, while one which does is strong and sure of itself -- with the condition that the opposition be of the well-mannered sort where no one is brought to forget human and social bonds. We are not people who say that an Islamic society is one which imposes opinions or exercises tyranny through statements at all. Opposition is a healthy phenomenon as long as its intention is to correct people's course, rectify their conduct and amend mistakes in the proper Islamic manner: "Call for the path of your lord through wisdom and good exhortation, and argue with them with what is the best."

The Third Side: The Confrontation

On Wednesday 10 July 1985, after the evening prayer, Shaykh Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahid, the Egyptian deputy minister of religious endowments and supervisor of mosques, Mr Mustafa Khattab, the legal advisor to the ministry and one of its former deputy ministers, and Shaykh Isma'il Sadiq al-'Adawi, the delegated giver of sermons in the mosque, went to the al-Nur mosque in al-'Abbasiyah square, which is considered one of the most important squares in Cairo, to arrive at an understanding with Shaykh Salamah where Shaykh Isma'il al-'Adawi would be able to carry out his task as giver of sermons in the mosque, after they had prevented him from carrying it out the Friday prior to this meeting.

AL-MAJALLAH managed to get an exclusive recording of this meeting, which shows the position of both parties:

Shaykh Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahid: The process of incorporating the mosque into the ministry came only within the context of the role which is incumbent on it, since it is the body in Egypt which has prime responsibility for everything and every activity related to the appeal to almighty God. It is responsible for being fully cognizant of proselytizers who direct the appeal to the people.

Hence the ministry's decree was made. It does not transcend our function of working to serve the Islamic appeal. Therefore, I believe that there is no basis to Shaykh Hafiz Salamah's objection to the decree and refusal to allow Shaykh Isma'il al-'Adawi to perform the sermon, because Shaykh Salamah, before the October 1973 war, coordinated with the ministry and was the one who asked his eminence the minister for Shaykh al-'Adawi -- so why should he come today and object to it?

Shaykh Hafiz Salamah: I wonder how the ministry could incorporate a schoolyard which is not outfitted to be a mosque but indeed consists of a courtyard in front of rooms which God willing will be a school for the Islamic Guidance Society in Suez, after which the site for the mosque in this project will be determined. We do not yet know its site; rather, we are praying everywhere.

Therefore we demand that the ministry leave the mosque project to us so that it can carry out its mission. We will not confine ourselves to the decree, because that entails a diminution in the status of the appeal and this is not at all proper in God's religion.

Mustafa Khattab: The decision to reaffirm the incorporation and appoint a giver of sermons and employees for the mosque came about only by way of assistance to you, as part of a number of decrees incorporating other mosques, after the ministry had obtained 20 million pounds from the government. This entails no diminution in the status of the appeal at all. Indeed, it is a system; everything is subject to a system, even the Islamic appeal. The holy prophet was the first person to urge the system and order it with respect to many matters, and the society, no matter what its activity might be, is a discrete legal personality whose activity is limited, not general or comprehensive in the government. As for the mosque, a statement is made in it, through this statement it addresses all the people and the statement has a context. The ministry puts this context in being and it is the entity in charge of statements from pulpits, even where these pulpits are in a well.

Therefore, I request Shaykh Salamah to help us carry out this matter, which is one of the ministry's obligations.

Shaykh Salamah: We have filed suits with the Egyptian judiciary regarding the ministry's precedence over incorporation and other suits against the minister for abstaining in executing the verdict issued in our favor regarding our precedence over the mosque. For our part we refuse to have the ministry's giver of sermons assume the pulpit.

Mustafa Khattab: No one would imagine that the dispute among people working in the area of the appeal -- if there is a dispute -- could reach the point

of litigation. This is something which can be solved with some discussion and conciliation. Does Shaykh Salamah or anyone believe that there is a giver of sermons who is more capable than the giver of sermons of the ministry, which is more capable than others to choose proselytizers?

Shaykh Salamah: We do not want the ministry's giver of sermons. We will choose the people whom we find are capable at conveying proper religious information to the people, and the people have trust in us.

Shaykh Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahid: I would like to state the meaning of the word "the ministry's givers of sermons." That means people whom the ministry considers have the ability to instill virtuous Islamic principles in the light of the book and the sayings and doings of the prophet, unencumbered by fanaticism or zealotry. The significance of the ministry's giver of sermons is not that a professor is banned from the university or a teacher from a school if he is competent and distinguished and has the ability to deliver sermons and make the appeal in accordance with the framework the holy prophet drew up.

Shaykh Salamah: We have bitter experiences with the ministry from earlier times. We asked them for a given person or someone else, and were surprised when they sent us someone else. I do not now want to go through this same experience. We choose proselytizers whom we trust. Perhaps everyone knows the status of the safety valve in the hand of God's poor servant at the time of the factional strife in al-Zawiyah al-Hamra'. God be thanked, I was empowered to be the direct cause of the termination of this strife, which I believed it was not in the interest of Islam or Egypt to inflame.

Mustafa Khattab: We are not fighting any positions and are not suppressing any ideas that have integrity. The whole issue, as I mentioned, is an organizational one. With praise to God, since Dr al-Ahmadi Abu al-Nur assumed the ministry, proselytizers have been guiding people with full freedom in the context of the book and the sayings and doings of the prophet. No giver of sermons has been asked about what he is saying, as long as he has committed himself to the legal framework for guidance and criticism.

I can truly say this: extend your hand so that we may all cooperate for the sake of the Islamic appeal and its well being.

Shaykh Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahid: I would like to ask Shaykh Salamah: Isn't he the one who asked the minister for Shaykh al-'Adawi so that he could give sermons in the mosque? Why is he standing in his way now?

Shaykh Salamah: I asked for him one Friday, not every Friday.

Mustafa Khattab: But the ministry has appointed him giver of sermons, and the ministry's decrees must be respected.

Shaykh Salamah: Therefore the government is imposing him on us as a giver of sermons by force.

Shaykh Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahid: Coordination between the ministry and the Guidance Society is most advantageous for the appeal, and you may be

confident that the ministry will choose only someone for you whom you consider competent for this position. The minister is anxious that the proselytizers' thinking not be suppressed, as long as it is in the framework of Islamic law.

Shaykh Salamah: Therefore we are asking you to bring us Shaykh Ahmad al-Mahallawi to be the person giving the sermon next Friday.

Mustafa Khattab: You are asking us to bring Shaykh al-Mahallawi from Alexandria, and it is now Wednesday afternoon. That is not reasonable. I also consider that there is no justification for making a comparison between al-'Adawi and al-Mahallawi. Shaykh al-Mahallawi is tied to his own mosque and public; how can we deprive them of him?

Shaykh Salamah: As long as you welcome coordination, we seek it.

Mustafa Khattab: Yes, coordination in the framework of the supervision and resources of the ministry. Al-'Adawi is the basic giver of sermons for the mosque.

Shaykh Isma'il al-'Adawi: God has given me the honor of assuming the pulpits of the society's mosques since 1968, and what has happened by way of my being prohibited and being accused of being a representative of the authorities and the ruler does not keep us from acting together for the sake of God and the nation. There are no psychological barriers among us. On the subject of next Friday, Shaykh Salamah is a virtuous brother and is aware of the perspective of things. It would be wise for the statements there to be unencumbered by provocation, and I and Shaykh al-Mahallawi are united in the appeal. As for replacing me for the sake of being provocative or causing an uproar in public opinion, that is not in the interests of Islam.

This does not keep me from assuring you that I do not consider any pulpit I assume to have high or low priority; rather, they are all for the sake of God.

People do not dispute what I say on every pulpit, which is to appeal for the application of Islamic law. Shaykh Salamah has prayed in my presence in al-Azhar a number of times. Has he encountered remiss treatment with respect to people's rights on my part? Not at all. Rather, it is based on the wisdom of the Koran and the words of almighty God.

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EGYPT

BROAD OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT STAND ON ISLAMIC LAW NOTED

Kuwait AL-MUJTAMA' in Arabic 28 May 85 pp 24, 25

[Article: "From the Brothers' Deputies in the Egyptian Parliament: This Is a Statement to the People Concerning the Application of Islamic Law in Egypt"]

[Text] People's reactions continue to condemn, in the utmost indignation, the suppression of the issue of the application of Islamic law and the frustration of attempts by assembly deputies representing the conscience of the Egyptian people and the Islamic nation at the People's Assembly session in Cairo 4 May to put the honorable laws of Islam into practical application in Egypt. Many people are still condemning the position taken by the chairman of the assembly and the prime minister regarding this issue, on which all the people have reached unanimity, including the Copts also, in order to satisfy the sincere American friend and the crusader West! The People's Assembly deputies who are Moslem Brothers met after withdrawing from the session discussing the application of Islamic law, reviewed matters and issued the following statement, so that every self-respecting Moslem would become aware of the true nature of what is happening in Moslem Egypt! The statement says:

The hopes of millions in Egypt and the Islamic world were attached to the People's Assembly session held on 4 May 1985 and people's attention was fixed to every sound emanating from this session, out of their interest in the application of Islamic law, which governed Egypt for 13 centuries, during which the word of God held sway, personal opinion bowed down at the threshold of the supreme triumph, because God is knowing and you are not, hopes of military victory, economic wellbeing, resplendent security, blessings brought down from heaven and fruit on earth were realized, and the glory of the world was achieved for the Moslems in the manner history describes as well as the hoped for blessings of the hereafter, in the manner the statement of almighty God foretold: "God did not cause your faith to be lost: God is most benevolent and compassionate with people."

The Report Has Not Been Written for 3 Years!

The tyrannical colonialists then prevailed over our affairs and their numerous weapons then caused our heads to be bowed, held sway by force,

compulsion and coercion and shook God's law from its place in our society. Laws codified by man then dominated us, permitting what God had prohibited, forbidding what God had permitted and destroying his Islamic penalties, pronounced its notorious slogan "There is no crime or punishment except by stipulation," without considering the stipulations of Islamic law to be venerable and sacred, destroyed people's blood and honor and spread about licentiousness among devout people, so that the spirits of the Moslems vanished and the sayings and doings of the prophet of God were realized in their regard -- the sayings and doings which the almighty's statement declares: "That is because God has not changed a bounty which he has bestowed on a people until they have changed what is in themselves." Our unity foundered, our strength dissipated, our enemy invaded us, and God made us taste the raiment of hunger and fear through our own acts. Had it not been for events which surged forth, calling for the paramountcy of God's word, God's misery, which states "And if you turn away others besides you will be replaced as a people then they will not be the likes of you," would have befallen us.

Now, as we realize that there are three powers in our country, the legislative power which codifies the laws, the judiciary power, which makes rulings through these laws, and the executive power, which carries out these rulings, we have considered that the turning point in the application of God's Islamic law is for it to find its way to the members of the People's Assembly, if God will give us power among its seats. Along the road to the application of Islamic law we have seen a great massive achievement which grasps and deeply examines these diverse aspects of codification in Islamic law, the civil, penal, economic, social, litigious, commercial, maritime and evidential. We praise almighty God that the legal expressions with which men of the law have been familiar and the court of cassation wishes have been preserved in this massive achievement, just as the soundness of the provisions of rulings in Islamic jurisprudence in these legal frameworks which al-Azhar has observed has been realized in this massive achievement, and only the measures of issuing these laws remains, whereby the Committee on Islamic Law and Constitutional Affairs in the People's Assembly will write its report preparatory to its presentation to the assembly. The previous assembly submitted these Islamic drafts to it on 1 July 1982 and the sheikh of al-Azhar wrote to the chairman of the assembly urging him to submit these drafts, which al-Azhar had approved preparatory to their issuance. The wait for this report has gone on for a period that has lasted 36 months so far, although the process of appointment took only 4 months.

A Conclusion with Which We Have Been Distressed

It has appalled us that the chairman of the People's Assembly has announced time after time with a strange insistence that none of these laws are in the possession of the People's Assembly!

Therefore we have resorted to a system of presenting bills, embodied by our demanding that a session be devoted to discussing the issue of Islamic law with the objective of obtaining the resolution of the current People's Assembly that it is embracing the Islamic laws which the previous assembly had created and demand that the measures for their issuance in application of God's Islamic law be completed. We were surprised by the following arrangements:

1. The subject of the discussion was postponed from January to 4 May 1985.
2. In the course of this period we were led to the convening of hearing sessions with the objective of bringing about the commitment to writing of a report which brought people's hopes to the result which has distressed us, absorbing the meetings of public opinion which was concerned with elevating God's word.
3. The chairman of the People's Assembly was surprised when all the people who came forth in the hearing committees were unanimous in demanding the application of Islamic law. It was necessary to eliminate this consensus by assigning the Religious Affairs Committee to set out a report ruling on this unanimous current in order to frustrate it.
4. The amazing surprise occurred after the distribution of this report, where the members of the Religious Affairs Committee in the People's Assembly condemned the attribution of this report to them, because in its form it was a violation of what they had demanded and the agreement they had reached on the need for the application of Islamic law and ruined the accomplishments of the previous assembly, violating Islamic law. One should bear in mind that that actually took place, and is to be considered something which has actually happened, the destruction of reality, the ruination of the codification on which people's hopes had been fixed, a severance of a stage which had been transcended previously, and a certification of falsehoods which the report had attributed to the prophet, on whom be God's prayers and peace, stating that he had suspended Islamic penalties in the time of war, and to 'Umar, may God be content with him, stating that he had suspended Islamic penalties in time of drought, although the prophet of God did not suspend Islamic penalties in war or peace and 'Umar, may God be content with him, warded suspicion away from Islamic penalties, while, if Islamic penalties had been applied when ambiguity was present, that would have violated God's Islamic law, and that prevented him from doing that. We then saw the report calling for the preparation of a general climate for the application of Islamic law in Egypt, feigning ignorance of the unanimity which had been reached in Egypt during successive referendums over the appeal for the application of Islamic law, accompanied by a recommendation which claimed that the two papers demanded that the discussion within the assembly be closed. When we became aware of all this, we sent a recommendation to the chairman of the People's Assembly recommending that the assembly adopt a decree that it had embraced the drafts of Islamic laws the previous assembly had adopted, which the chairman of the assembly had presented, and that voices would rise to declare their objection and threaten to withdraw from the assembly. The final point was the one that caused the breakdown.

Mr Hasan al-Jamal, member of the People's Assembly, and the Christian colleagues along with him, declared that Hasan Hafiz, member of the People's Assembly, had collected the signatures of some deputies to the demand that the discussion on the subject of Islamic law be closed before the session began, outside of the discussion. This was the paper the chairman of the People's Assembly announced, portraying it as demanding the closure of the discussion.

By means of these tactics, people's hopes evaporated and the opportunity was lost.

What Is the Question Now?

5. We presented the drafts of Islamic laws which the previous assembly had made so that Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub would not once again say that there were no drafts of Islamic laws in the possession of the assembly. We could have taken this step on the first day we were given the honor of speaking on behalf of the Egyptian people had we not preferred to defer this notion, in great hopes that the whole assembly would take a decision embracing this Islamic approach. The question now is, will the chairman of the People's Assembly hand these drafts of laws over to the competent committees?

And, if it does do so, will the committees review them or will they cause them to be wasted? The question, noble Egyptian people, is that we, the community of people signing this statement and our colleague members of the People's Assembly whose names we will provide later, who have joined together with us, will not despair or be silent and we will not waste any opportunity which arises to demand the application of Islamic law. It is a duty of public opinion in Egypt that it make its legitimate demand of its deputies whom it has crowned with confidence, to whom it has given its support and whose promises it trusted during the election campaign, so that you may know the new names of People's Assembly members who have joined us and so that we may perhaps gain a number of signatures and supporters which will enable us to reopen the discussion on this sacred matter, the matter of the application of Islamic law, in search of the glory of the world and the bounty of the hereafter. We are certain that God's Islamic law is the road to the realization of people's hopes.

The members of the People's Assembly signing this are:

Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il (independent), Dr 'Abd-al-Ghaffar 'Aziz (Wafd), Shaykh Muhammad al-Matrawi (Wafd), Husni Ahmad 'Abd-al-Baqi (Wafd), Muhammad al-Maraghi (Wafd), Mahfuz Hilmi (Wafd), Muhammad al-Shaytani (Wafd), Hasan Jawdah (Wafd) and Hasan al-Jamal (Wafd).

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EGYPT

ISLAMIC MILITANTS DEMAND APPLICATION OF RELIGIOUS LAW

Cancellation of Parade Condemned

Cairo AL-I'TISAM in Arabic Jun-Jul 85 p 3

[Text] No one fully knows what will happen after this violent destructive clamor against Islamic law, and no one fully knows the extent to which the dream of this deep-rooted school of corrupting our political and social life will be realized and will distort every early sign of hope for salvation and emergence from the chronic ordeal.

The school of executioners in Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir's era managed to achieve a superiority for whose likes there was no precedent in the era of British colonialism, to degrade the Egyptian people, strip them of their morals and values and sow the values of cowardice, decadence and corruption in the spirits of some of its members, then clothe itself in Islam and its teachings until disgraceful defeat befell it in 1967.

The executioners' era was supposed to have ended after the glorious Ramadan crossing, but they started to promote all methods of tyranny and terror in the presence of Anwar al-Sadat, until he gracelessly volunteered in September 1981 to put most of the Islamic and political leaders into Egypt's prisons through a repugnant campaign against Islam and the Moslems which was accompanied by an arsenal of evil laws preserving the executioners' rights to discipline anyone who violated them or rebelled against their terroristic platform! The president's tragic end came on the anniversary of the day of the crossing he was proud of and boasted of, and the wounds remained deep and suppurating with pains which burned with a fiery inflammation!

People considered that Husni Mubarak, through his good steps with the release of the prisoners or al-Sadat's hostages in Egypt's prisons, the dismissal of some executioners, impartiality before the judiciary power and the effort at a commitment to freedom of oral and cautionary expression through the parties and tribunals of publication, would totally eliminate the "school of executioners" and would say its last rites forever, so that it would lie at rest in the museum of modern Egyptian history, as a lesson and memory for anyone who took it upon himself to transgress the nation, its freedoms, its beliefs and its longings for life!

What is happening nowadays is a destructive, violent onslaught against Islamic law and a disruption of the early signs of hope for salvation which are causing people to wonder, in anxiety and bewilderment: Has the school of executioners triumphed over the school of the rational?

There is more than one significant side to this question, more than one meaning and also more than one justification!

People do not believe that the fighting hero and proselytizer Shaykh Hafiz Salamah's declaration concerning his "green parade" was the real reason behind this violent, destructive attack and the disruption of the early signs of hope for salvation. The sheikh sought refuge in the judiciary to whose verdicts and sovereignty the president had declared he submitted himself, then the sheikh declared the cancellation of the parade when he became aware of the danger to the young Moslems who would take part in the parade. This means that the issue took place in a normal, lawful manner. At the same time, the lawyer 'Abd-al-Muhsin Hammudah for his part gave notice of a parade to realize a demand and also sought refuge in the judiciary, but the violent, destructive attack was concentrated only on the cancelled green parade, and went beyond that to Islam itself and to derision against its provisions and facts!

The school of executioners, it seems, is trying to prepare a grim atmosphere which is no less gloomy than that of September 1981, and therefore it is seeking an alliance with the evil elements which sold themselves to the devil for the sake of positions and fragmentation. It was strange that the Egyptian marxist students of the Zionist Henri Curiel, the followers of the masonic order in Egypt and a handful of servile journalists and writers who were not known for independent opinions, intrinsic ideas or distinctive personalities should join this alliance. People have known them since their origins as servants of the authorities and students in the executioners' school who recited its statements, ideas and hymns at weddings and lesser events, and at funerals and greater ones! They today are playing the role of hired female mourners at the great funeral the executioners' school has held in order to stem the Islamic tide, put fear in the devout and cause eager aspirants to retreat to a life in the shadow of security, tranquility and stability!

I believe that the school of the rationalists in the Egyptian administration rejects the platform of the executioners' school totally and considers that every position must be dealt with in a context of true, sincere dialogue, not the fraudulent stage dialogue which people see on the television screen at times. In addition, the school of rationalists rejects the techniques of disruption and campaigns being led by a clan which has no real relationship to the nation and its ordeal. It is not reasonable that people who had previously sold it for a meager price to every executioner, large or small, should defend the nation and its identity!

The school of the rationalists, as I consider it, understands that greater freedom, the further crystallization of the Islamic personality and further steps toward the true world of Islam are the effective means for resolving the nation's problems and bringing it out of chronic backwardness to the

desired acquisition of civilization -- politically, economically, socially, industrially, agriculturally and culturally.

The people who demand the application of Islamic law are not extremists, terrorists or people who are delighted at the severance of hands and feet and the erection of gallows for God's servants. Rather, they are striving toward something greater and more magnificent; they are striving for freedom in its broadest notions, in an Islamic context, for all the classes and factions of the people. Real freedom is the heart and pith of Islamic law. By means of freedom, it is possible to establish a society which relies on consultation or real democracy, not a democracy of facade; through real consultation justice and equality are achieved and the forces of the nation are unleashed in various areas of fruitful production and cultural innovation.

The people who demand the application of Islamic law are greater than all the slanders which the school of executioners has broadcast and disseminated in the violent destructive attack on Islam and the Moslems. No one among the Moslems appeals for factional strife, the severing of hands or feet, the erection of gallows for God's servants, the deprivation of people's money and rights in the name of Islam, aggression against women in the streets, the elimination of the radio and television, the killing of people opposed to religion and the shedding of blood of non-Moslems.

Rather, the people who demand the application of Islamic law are seeking to implant the constitution firmly, put it into effect and act on it on the basis of its two articles, the first and second ones, which stipulate the "Islamic nature" of the country in terms of identity and platform, conduct and civilization. They demand the ratification of drafts of laws which have been in the National Assembly for a long time, since the mid-sixties, and consider that "salvation" is contingent on the implantation of Islam in letter and spirit and the spread of its great notions through the media and publications, so that we can transcend the obstacles, pass through the ordeal and arrive at safe land.

Confronting the awakening of Islam by this violent, destructive campaign will not serve Egypt, will not protect security and will not achieve stability. It would be worthier for the school of executioners to turn away from the platform of violence, terror and the use of the whip and the cudgel and open the path for the school of rationalists for the sake of the interests of the Egypt of Islamic nature and its well being. Freedom alone is the road to fruitful, constructive dialogue, and the application of God's Islamic law to correct the disrupted conditions, first of which at least is the deteriorated economic situation, is one of the bases of Islamic construction. The glorious one stated it truthfully, clearly and plainly: "And the good land -- its vegetation comes forth by the leave of its lord, and the corrupt -- it comes forth but scantily." How scanty is the vegetation in our situation and our present, thanks to the executioners' school!

We ask God to be kind to Egypt and its people and Islam so that ripe fruit will not fall into the hands of the marxists who are waiting with longing for this moment, with blood, iron, fire and the Leninist revolutionary theory!

Delay in Application Condemned

Cairo AL-I'TISAM in Arabic Jun-Jul 85 pp 22-28

[Article by Mahmud 'Abd-al-Wahhab Fayid]

[Text] It is no longer a secret to anyone that the struggle between those who seek the application of Islam and the modern rulers is a serious, intense one. When people, through their bedazzlement by foreign systems, be they Western or Eastern, oppose the application of Islamic law, that is because they have not studied it, have not understood it and have not devoted attention to it. In the past, it was said "the person who is ignorant of something is hostile to it," and it is a saying of almighty God "but they have cried lies to that whereof they comprehended not the knowledge."

The people who have studied it, understood it and believed in it demand that haste be made in its application, in response to the motivations of belief, in keeping with the requirements of human nature, in response to the need of society, in attention to its circumstances and in treatment of its ills which have become widespread and aggravated and which only almighty sublime God can cure. This demand has become a demand of the people's and all parties, even the leftist Grouping Party, have become compelled to record it at the beginning of their programs, in satisfying the people and in the hope of winning the citizens' votes.

In deference to the desire of the people, specialized committees were formed consisting of the elite of experts, Islamic jurists, men of the law, economists, professors, eminent scholars, men of ideas and scholars of Islamic law to formulate new laws which would be in keeping with the spirit of the age, would be in agreement with the laws God has decreed, and would be in harmony with the people's belief and circumstances, so that the response would be total and general and from the depths of people's hearts, and no deception would occur in evading it, and so that under its shelter the people would be graced with security, stability, love, justice, wellbeing and welfare. These committees, after about 5 years of constant work, completed preparing and formulating all the laws, finished reviewing them carefully, then submitted them to the former chairman of the People's Assembly, Dr Sufi Abu Talib, who presented them himself to al-Azhar, along with the reports that accompanied them, so the Society of Islamic Research would subject them to final review, as Prof 'Abd-al-Mughni Sa'id, one of the deputy ministers and participants in their preparation, has testified (1).

Al-Azhar took the initiative of reviewing them and sent them back to the People's Assembly along with a report on them. The office of the senior imam also affirmed that in a statement he issued (2), as Prof 'Abd-al-Mughni Sa'id acknowledged in a statement of his (3).

Thus the laws have been prepared and reviewed and are ready; they need nothing but to have the People's Assembly ratify them. The assembly's right lies in asserting that they totally conform to Islamic law. If that is proved to the assembly, it has no choice but to ratify them or fail to do so. The lord says in his book, "It is not for any believer, man or woman,

when God and his prophet have decreed a matter, to have the choice in the affair. Whosoever disobeys God and his prophet has gone astray into manifest error." He says, "But no, by thy lord! They will not believe till they make thee the judge regarding the disagreement between them, then they shall find in themselves no impediment regarding the verdict you have made and will submit themselves to it totally." He says, "And judge between them according to what God has revealed, do not follow their caprices, and beware of them lest they tempt thee away from any of what God has revealed to thee. But if they turn their backs, know that God desires only to smite them for some sin they have committed and that many people are corrupt. Is it then the judgment of pagandom they are seeking? Who is fairer in judgment than God, for a people who have true faith?"

After this effort, in which the greatest men of Egypt took part, which lasted a long time, and on which much government money was spent, Rif'at al-Mahjub, the chairman of the People's Assembly, ought to have greeted the people who carried it out, thanked them for the effort they exerted, continued the course and sustained the steps so that the attainment of their lofty, sacred demand would be realized for the people, in all their bodies. However, al-Mahjub, unfortunately, found this effort repugnant, found those who had performed it repugnant and alleged that he had no drafts of laws in his possession. His eminence the senior imam the sheikh of al-Azhar, may God aid him and grant him sway, ventured to reply to him and made a worthy, calm, firm speech in which he put the dots on the I's. That was published in AKHBAR AL-YAWM on 23 February 1985 on Page 7. Part of what was stated in it was the passage:

"The People's Assembly committees kept working for about 5 years in all branches of the law to present Islamic legislation taken from the jurisprudence of the Islamic creeds, in order to facilitate its provisions for everyone, while observing the circumstances and changes of the era. These committees finished preparing these drafts and presented them to the People's Assembly."

His eminence then said:

"These drafts must not be hidden away on the grounds that they have not been presented to the assembly in the way stipulated in the constitution. This way is accessible to all members of the People's Assembly. If we present drafts of ordinary laws, with their amendments, and hasten to carry them out and approve them as of the day on which they are issued, then it is of the utmost relevance that we should make haste and that our deputies, or some of them, should present these drafts in its name so that they may assume constitutional form, although the constitution does not take precedence over Islamic law. The People's Assembly is a representative of the people, and if it has not taken charge of issuing these laws by itself, so that it is not just confined to discussion in their regard, it will have violated that which it is representing, which is the people -- I do not say that it would have betrayed them; I consider the People's Assembly to be above betraying its people; it is a trusteeship. 'God commands you to perform trusteeship for the people concerned with it, and, if you render judgment among people, to do so justly.'"

After this, his eminence replied to the persons who allege that the people are not prepared for the rulings of Islamic law and said:

"We are totally prepared for it. It is enough for you to go down among the Egyptian streets today to hear the people's desire that it be adopted. Indeed, many letters come to my office in al-Azhar from people insisting, demanding, hastening and wondering about the reasons prompting the delay in the issuance of the laws derived from Islamic law. Perhaps the People's Assembly can answer this."

His eminence went on to describe the advantage of Islamic law over secular laws, and said,

"There is no doubt that the genuine nature of Islamic law is in the genuineness of its source, and its source is almighty glorious God. It cannot be compared with any secular law. Rather, it stands above all law, and the history of its execution supports that. If we go back to the first era of Islam, we will find that security and safety, wellbeing and peace were present. Security was something that existed and was obvious: people were safe, along with their lives, their property and their honor. This was due not to the power of Islamic laws but the power of its provisions and people's faith in their justice. We are now acting deviously with all laws, while no one acts deviously with God's law, because every Moslem believes in God's law. When Moslems are told 'This is God's law and ruling,' they make their own hearts yield before making their neighbors' yield. Secular law deals with effects which might have taken place, but Islamic law deters things before they take place, and, if they do take place, they are punished. This ought to be clear in the description of the difference between secular law and that of almighty glorious God."

Has Rif'at al-Mahjub read this lesson? Has he understood it? Has he been aware of it? Has this calm statement, supported by proof, found a way to his heart and to the hearts of people of his type? No, I do not know why almighty God's statement comes to my heart in interpreting this situation:

"I shall turn away from my revelations those who are unjustly arrogant on earth; though they see every revelation, they will not believe in it, and though they see the upright path they will not take it as a path, and though they see the path of error they will take it as a path, because they have cried lies to our revelations and heeded them not."

What did al-Mahjub, who was brought in unbeknownst to the nation, found no concern in facing it, and did not meet with it so it could broadcast its desires to him, do? What did he do? He took an action whose goal was no secret to anyone. He declared at that time that the review of the issue of the application of Islamic law was being postponed to May, so that perhaps people's rebellious nerves would calm down and he would avoid these missiles which the sheikh of al-Azhar had set off -- "The People's Assembly will have violated that which it is representing, which is the people -- I do not say that it would have betrayed them; I consider the People's Assembly to be above betraying its people" -- and perhaps he would reach understanding with someone of his type to dilute and soften the issue. It is God's wish that

events brought pressure to bear, crimes with which Egypt has not been familiar occurred, terror became intensified, panic became exacerbated, and the people screamed, turned away and demanded again and insisted to the people in charge of affairs that haste be made in the application of God's Islamic law, so that perhaps they would be graced with his satisfaction and win his guidance. This time, the campaign of writers of integrity and the judges of Egypt would join the religious scholars and the nation, demanding the application of Islamic law and accelerating the execution of divine provisions. Here we will cite some of the crimes the press has cited:

In AL-JUMHURIYAH, Monday 18 February 1985, on the first page, there was this news: "Attempt to burglarize the villa of the minister of transportation." Under that item was another titled "They broke into the deputy minister of agriculture's villa, bound him and his wife up and stole 7,000 pounds."

In AL-AKHBAR, 13 March 1985, the writer of "An Idea" was amazed by two items of news which took place in one day: a husband in al-Wayili set fire to his wife, and another wife set fire to her husband.

In AL-JUMHURIYAH, Sunday 17 March 1985, page seven, "The person who killed his parents said, 'I committed my crime in total command of my faculties; I fired 26 shots at my father and mother.' The father was Dr Muhammad 'Aziz 'Abd-al-Jawad, chairman of the Radiology Department in the Heart Institute, the mother was Su'ad Hasan, announcer in the General Program, and the son who committed the murders was a student in the Faculty of Engineering at al-Mansurah."

Successive crimes of kidnapping and rape occurred -- the crime of the kidnapping of the girl in al-Fayyum, the girl in al-Ma'adi, the wife in Alexandria, the nurse in Giza and so forth!

Then a doctor who commits abominable acts with women that are deleterious to public morality claims prophecy, and the amazing thing is that most of his patients are educated persons. To that one should add the promotion of drugs of various types, including a new type which destroys the person who takes it most severely, bodily, mentally and morally, and causes him to consider it fit to commit the vilest of crimes!

Let us not forget the crimes of the people who are at the apex of power in persecuting honorable citizens, repressing them, paving the way to illicit wealth for partisans and proteges through bribes and embezzlement, tax evasion, drug dealing and smuggling money by the millions so that the government has failed to perform its commitments, compelling it to go into debt and shackle the hands of the nation with the fetters of debts and their exorbitant interest. It is sufficient, as evidence for that, that the World Bank recorded foreign debts owed by Egypt totalling \$31 billion and domestic debts totalling \$12 billion. The figures here are in the billions, not the millions (4).

This corruption and destruction which has gotten out of hand and become widespread and enveloped every corner of the country, which every person in the nation has sensed -- people have made a great noise about this

corruption and destruction. Some of the crimes involved in it have been brought before the judiciary, the judiciary has felt that the secular laws are deficient in providing decisive remedies and deterrence, and the people in charge have demanded that haste be made in returning to God's law. Here we might record some of what the papers have published in the words of free, brave judges:

1. Regarding the al-Jihad case, the counsellors who reviewed it, 'Abd-al-Ghaffar Muhammad, Jamal Fu'ad and Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Salam, drew attention to the danger which was to be feared for Egypt, which as they said was:

"The absence of God's law from the land of Egypt, the presence of phenomena in Egyptian society which are not in any case in keeping with the rules of Islam, the position of the Moslems' learned men, their leaving young people lacking in wise religious guidance which will protect them from extremism, the state of suffering which the Egyptian people have attained, the appearance of broad discrepancies among classes and the straits of life for the majority of the people at the same time the president is living in a state of extreme luxury among palaces and vacation homes, which have stirred up people's rancor against him and his regime."

The court did not miss the opportunity to point to:

"The infernal methods of torture which the authorities have carried out, which have surpassed what took place in the dark ages; they have demanded that these be investigated and have asserted that they were thereby presenting a clear, obvious picture to those who were concerned, so that what happened yesterday would not be repeated in the future. This is something which can lead the society to total collapse."

See the newspaper AL-AHRAM, 3 November 1984, Page 14, and AL-WAFD, 15 November 1984, Pages One and 11.

2. Regarding the case of the kidnapping of the girl in al-Fayyum, the counsellors Muhammad Jalal-al-Din Husayn, Mahmud 'Abd-al-Hamid Ghirab and Mustafa al-Sayyid, at the conclusion of the verdict, said:

"Out of obedience to the pious, and to alleviate any suffering latent in the consciences of the judges of Egypt which might be reflected by secular laws which they apply under compulsion in the name of the law and legitimacy, so that they rule by other than what God has revealed, the absence of Islamic law with its Islamic penalties is the essence of the tragedy and the depth of the disaster."

In conclusion, the court urged the people concerned to rule in accordance with God's law so that the stringent wave of violence, the heretical deception and sinful perversion on the Egyptian streets would come to an end. The court also stressed that criminal schemes and diabolical minds would be exterminated only by the application of God's Islamic law and the release of the drafts of the laws of Islam.

AL-WAFD, Thursday 7 February 1985, Page 11, conclusion.

3. Regarding the case of the kidnapping of the Giza nurse, the counsellor Muhammad 'Abbas Abu 'Alam and his colleagues said:

"We urge the government to exert its maximum power to spread the divine laws and the virtues they contain. If they are implanted in the spirits of our children and young people, they will be their best guardian against deviation."

In conclusion of the verdict, the following statement was made:

"The court urges the legislators to restudy all stipulations so that they may be rid of matters which contradict the provisions of the most gracious Islamic law."

This was the conclusion of the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, Monday 25 March 1985, Page 10.

4. The counsellors Mahmud Huraydi, al-Sayyid Nur-al-Din al-Shahhat and Fawzi Lam'i ruled that "usury" was void. This paragraph appeared in their verdict:

"When it is the judges who commit the crime of people who rule in accordance with something other than what God has revealed, they bear the burden for that. The court does not hesitate to rule in accordance with what God has revealed and to rule in rejection of the ruling of interest, basing itself on its invalidity, because it violates Islamic law, which is loftier than all secular laws, even if that is the constitution." The court continued, "Faced with the matter of the application of Islamic law, which has become rooted in the minds, consciences and consciousness of all the people, it conveys to the president the compulsion which the judges are suffering from in ruling in accordance with something other than what God has revealed. Therefore it urges him to relieve them of this suffering through the application of Islamic law so that the spirits of the judges and the spirits of the litigants may be at rest, in view of the virtue that entails for the ruler and the ruled."

AL-WAFD, Page One, 17 January 1985.

5. Regarding the case of "adultery and forgery of official papers" which the higher criminal and state security court in Bani Suwayf reviewed under the chairmanship of Counsellor Muhammad Jalal-al-Din Husayn, with Muhammad Gharab and Ahmad 'Izzat as members, the court, in the conclusion of its verdict, said,

"This places the burden of compulsion regarding the verdict, contrary to what Islam requires, on the shoulder of the president and the legislative authority. The court has urged the president to issue a decree of a law which will turn the drafts of God's penalties into laws which the judges will apply and the authorities dominant in the country will carry out." It then said, "How long will we continue to deal with these laws, through which we are disobeying God?"

The newspaper AL-NUR, Page One, Wednesday 12 June 1985.

The judges have done their duty and have warned of the imminent danger before it sweeps over the country and disaster falls. They have stressed that the decisive, successful treatment lies in the arbitration of God's law and deference to its provisions, virtues and instructions. The judges are the chosen elite, the most senior among the people and those who are most aware of the painful reality which people in Egypt are experiencing. No wonder, since they are the ones who have reviewed the cases of corruption and aberrant conduct of various types and have studied them thoroughly before rendering judgment on them. Their ruling is a judgment, and their statement is not frivolous; their demand for the arbitration of Islamic law must not be neglected. Rather, we must appreciate it and appreciate the motives which impelled them to it. We must hasten to respond to it, especially if it is in keeping with the demands of the people and the scholars of religion in a form for which there previously was no equivalent.

God has wished that the Lawyers' Union should join up with the factions of the people, the judges and the scholars of religion. The union has seized the opportunity of the meeting of the Nile Valley Parliament to send a telegram stating:

"In the name of God the most merciful and compassionate, gentlemen members of the Nile Valley Parliament meeting in Cairo: we demand of you that the two halves of the Nile Valley be equal through the application of God's law in Egypt as it previously was applied in the Sudan. Egypt is the country of al-Azhar, no less than the Sudan." [Signed] The Lawyers' Union.

See the magazine MANAR AL-ISLAM, issue of February 1985, Page 127 (issued in the Arab Emirates). Unfortunately, the Egyptian media ignored this.

Egypt is the land of al-Azhar, and the whole world realizes al-Azhar's credit for and effect in spreading Islam, defending it, propagating its sciences, preserving its tradition and calling for its application. Egypt has a splendid Islamic countenance to which Moslems in various areas of Islam are drawn. Thanks to al-Azhar, and for the sake of this, the Islamic conference hastened to restore Egypt to membership in it without delay. We must preserve the tie of Islam which binds us to 1 billion Moslems or more in the various areas of the planet. We must respond to the appeal of al-Azhar, its sheikhs and its senior imam. It is not reasonable or acceptable that we should issue the appeal for it beyond Egypt and oppose it within Egypt. The scholars of al-Azhar are now suffering in the countries of the Islamic world from the most severe embarrassment and have often faced this question, as they ask people to yield to their lord's ruling "Will you order others to be pious and forget yourselves while you recite the book? Do you not understand?"

In an open speech which it directed to the president, which was published in AL-I'TISAM, issue of July-August 1984, it showed the grace of Islamic law, the advantages of ruling in accordance with it, the testimony of the great scholars of the law of various religions and countries, of its grace and the desire of the people to seek judgment from it, and God's judgment on those who turn away from it to other laws. A year has passed since then, and what has happened after that?

Al-Mahjub, chairman of the People's Assembly, made a statement which was sweet on the outside and bitter within, praising Islamic law, saying that he "shares the desire of the people and the assembly to be subject to the provisions of Islamic law" and promising that the laws in effect would be purified of the violations they contained. He called for the grant of a respite so that the purification could take place, met with some party figures and reached understanding with them that they would support him. I do not know whether that was out of conviction, conformity or deception on the part of the devil. I ask them all: if any of you is hungry or your life is in danger, a fresh loaf of bread is in front of you which has been prepared under the supervision of people with experience and specialization, and you have an old loaf which has rotted away, which experts have reached consensus is not fit, would you agree to be told, "Take a respite and wait until we can purify the old loaf of its rot, so that we can make it fit for consumption, then offer it to you?" Would you accept that or reject it and insistently demand the good fresh loaf which the specialists have prepared so you may save yourself before you die? Why do you call on the people who have been burdened down by the crimes of certain rulers and doers of corruption to wait when the laws are ready and reviewed, and have not issued forth from a vacuum? Indeed, the experts and specialists, when they were preparing them, devoted their attention to these laws, which are in effect now, and the sheikh of al-Azhar confirmed this, as did a statement issued from his office and one of the deputy ministers who took part in their preparation, as we have stated above.

What is the secret behind the waste of time? What is the secret behind the waste of this effort which was exerted for a number of years, and the waste of money spent out of the government's treasury, which is burdened down by debts?

In the newspaper AL-AKHBAR, 14 May 1985, on Page Three, Column One, Jalal al-Din al-Hamamisi wrote, under the title,

"Are they, that is, the Americans, the guardians of our affairs? Who gave them this guardianship? What is the use in the Americans' being extremely interested in this issue, since they are delighted by al-Mahjub's hidden methods and his success in postponing the review of the Islamic laws?"

Dr 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Nimr concurred with him in substance over an article Mr al-Hamamisi published in AL-AKHBAR, Tuesday 21 May 1985, Column One, Page Four, and AKHBAR, Wednesday 22 May, Column One, Page Three. The statement the two great scholars al-Hamamisi and al-Nimr made was preceded by the Sudanese newspaper AL-SAHFAH, Thursday 27 September 1984, Page Seven, Column Four.

Thus the cover was laid bare, the concealment disappeared, and people learned who is working under inspiration of the all-merciful and who is working under inspiration of the devil, who has enjoyed God's satisfaction and who has enjoyed the satisfaction of the Americans. In conclusion, we cite these verses:

"Believers, obey God and his prophet, and do not turn away from him, even as you are listening. Do not be like those who say 'We hear' and do not hear.

The worst of beasts to God are the deaf and dumb which do not understand. If God had known of any good in them he would have made them hear, and if he had made them hear they would have turned away, showing their sides. Believers, respond to God and the prophet when he calls you to that which will give you life, and know that God stands between man and his heart and that you shall be mobilized toward him. Fear strife which will not surely smite those in particular of you who have been unjust and know that God is severe in retribution. Remember when you were few and downtrodden on the earth, afraid that people would snatch you away, and he gave you refuge and supported you with his help and gave you sustenance of the good things; perhaps you will be thankful. Those of you who believe, do not betray God and the prophet, and do not betray your trust; for you are knowing."

"They say, 'We believe in God and the prophet and we obey,' then a group of them turns away after that -- they are not the devout."

"And no one cries lies to it but every guilty aggressor. When our revelations are read out to him he says, 'Fables of the ancients!' No indeed, but what they earned rusted on their hearts. No indeed, but upon that day they will be shut off from their lord. Then they shall roast in hell, then they shall be told, 'This is what you cried lies to!'"

"And some men there are whose talk about the life of this world pleases you: such a one calls on God as witness to what is in his heart yet he is the most implacable adversary. When he turns his back, he hastens about the earth to work corruption in it and destroy the tillage and stock. God loves not corruption. If he is told 'Fear God,' vainglory seizes him in his sin and hell will be enough for him. How evil a cradle!"

"So give good tidings to the servants who listen to the word and follow what is best in it. Those are the ones whom God has guided and those are the ones who possess minds."

(1) See AL-WAFD magazine, 21 February 1985, Page 4.

(2) This statement was published in the newspaper AL-WAFD, 7 March 1985, p 4.

(3) His statement was published in the newspaper AL-WAFD, 14 March, p 4.

(4) AL-WAFD, 21 February 1985, Page Five. However, AL-AHRAM of 14 June 1985 published, in the words of Dr al-Janzuri, the news that the total public debt on 3 April 1985 came to 16.4 billion pounds and that servicing of the public debt, that is, the interest on it, came to 1.6 billion pounds, while the newspaper AL-AKHBAR of 14 June 1985 estimated that at 16.7 billion.

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TUNISIA

ALLEGED TIES BETWEEN ISLAMIC TENDENCY MOVEMENT, IRAN EXAMINED

MTI Contacts

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Jul 85 pp 14-15

[Article: "What Is Tehran's Relationship to the Islamic Tendency Movement in Tunisia?"]

[Text] The Islamic Tendency Movement [MTI] is a new movement in Tunisian political life. It has been characterized by obscurity any mystery since it emerged in the early seventies within student circles. This movement did not publicize its political program, and leaders of the regime, primarily former prime minister al-Hadi Nuwayrah, used it to combat the left and the opposition right after the grave crisis that Tunisia experienced in 1969.

Although this movement had found itself on numerous occasions on the side of the authorities against opposition movements, in the eighties it began to come out in force under the protection of the relatively democratic dialogue that the country had come to know with the arrival of Mohamed Mzali, not just within student circles, but also within the Tunisian general workers' union.

Those who follow Tunisian affairs know very well that it was not a coincidence that the MTI in Tunisia held its first press conference since its establishment shortly after the start of President Bourguiba's trip to France and then to Washington, and shortly after the hijacked Jordanian airplane flew over Tunisian airspace on the twelfth of last month before heading to Beirut, where the hijackers set it on fire.

Visits by the Tunisian president to France usually have the attention of the French press, so what happens in Tunisia during his absence usually draws the attention of the French press in particular, and of the western press in general.

It seems that the MTI's holding its first public press conference falls within this framework, and it reminds world opinion of its existence, on the one hand, while on the other, the publicity received by the hijacking of the

Jordanian airplane which flew over Tunisian airspace by groups calling themselves "Islamic" would inevitably draw the attention of observers to what an "Islamic" movement in Tunisia itself would say.

It seems that what got observers' attention in particular was what was contained in this press conference, the first of its kind held by the MTI. Its secretary general, Rached Ghannouchi, demanded that "a popular referendum be held on the Tunisian personal status law." This is the law that gives women the right to vote, forbids polygamy, and regulates the divorce process, and it was established during the first years of independence.

This law is considered in Tunisia to be one of the most important undertakings by the Tunisian regime, so suggestions about holding a referendum on it are tantamount to confronting the entire regime, its history and its progressive gains in the social field. This is contrary to the conditions laid down by the Tunisian president in 1980 permitting the existence of "other parties in the country besides the ruling party."

Why did the MTI choose to confront and openly oppose the regime at this particular time, especially since there is agreement on the part of all the opposition parties, whether recognized or not, that this law is one of the most important things gained from independence?

This question was answered by the movement's secretary general himself in an interview with the Tunisian weekly paper AL-RA'Y. He said, "We are fighters supporting Islam's front in its intellectual (!) confrontation against every secular thought and deed." In the book that was published by the Islamic Cultural Center in Europe which is run by Khosrowshahi, the Iranian ambassador to the Vatican, he said in a word, "The Islamic movement in Iran is the vanguard of the world-wide Islamic movement" (p 79), that "Khomeyni is one of the lamps in the gloom of this black night: (p 82), and that "A powerful state will be born in Iran that will be an essential party in determining the fate of the region. It is inevitable that common bridges will be built in order to cooperate with it."

But how did this "cooperation" occur?

AL-DUSTUR is shedding some light, on the basis of documents acquired by its correspondents, on the "special relationship," "material" and spiritual, that links Tehran to the MTI and its secretary general.

When AL-DUSTUR recently uncovered the connection between some of the MTI leaders in Tunisia and Iran, and the contacts that had taken place on that account and the Libyan role in initiating such contacts, this movement issued a strongly worded statement attacking AL-DUSTUR, which it published in the local Tunisian press, but did not send to AL-DUSTUR, which was involved in the matter. Also, the MTI did not exercise its right to reply in the pages of AL-DUSTUR. The logical question was: Why did the MTI not do that and why did it not disprove such contacts with Iran, but was content with attacking AL-DUSTUR? In order to answer such a question, and disprove what some MTI leaders in Tunisia keep saying, that they are a Tunisian movement with no connection abroad and that the information that AL-DUSTUR published had no basis in fact, AL-DUSTUR's correspondents in a number of European capitals, in

particular Rome, Bonn, Paris and London, undertook an investigation to gather information and evidence on this subject. It can be said that the MTI in Tunisia, as well as some religious organizations in Algeria and Morocco, had changed over time into "branches" of an agency whose goal is to destroy the countries of Arab northwest Africa. The agency's headquarters is in Tehran, and it is run by a group of Iranian government officials headed by Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The "Iranian network" in Tunisia relies on various lines of communication and numerous channels in its relations with Tehran. These include direct contacts by people who openly deny that they belong to the MTI, people such as Fu'ad Wadi, who calls himself--depending on the circumstances--Abu Yasir and who recruits volunteers to go to Iran for weapons training. Moreover, he participated at some time in armed operations in Europe, then he transferred lately to the propaganda section connected to the office of the Iranian Ministry of Islamic Guidance on Liege Street in Paris. This supplies him with publications for him to distribute in front of French mosques. Then here is Trab Zemzemi, who lives in Switzerland. Trab Zemzemi has met several times with Habib Mokni, a member of the executive office--up until last month--of the MTI. Trab Zemzemi is considered to be one of the most significant elements openly working with Iran. He carries out the coordination between some of the authorized elements of the MTI in Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco, and the overseeing agency in Iran, as well as with Libya by way of a Libyan contact officer named Irbahim Quwayl. He frequents the Swiss city of Lausanne, where meetings take place which are sometimes attended by former Algerian president Ahmad Ben Bella. Movement leaders in Tunisia say that Trab Zemzemi is not a member in the movement, and he denies that as well, stressing that the movement leadership is moderate and not revolutionary. On the other hand, he paints a picture that is all but affiliated with some leaders of the MTI, such as Habib Mokni and Meftah Zemzemi, who is at the same time a relative of his and a representative of the MTI in Marseilles in southern France. As for Habib Mokni, who up to last month had been a member of the movement's executive office for several years, living abroad and in charge of information, he was in reality responsible for financing the movement, since he received Iranian transfers of money from the Iranian embassy in Rome to his wife Saoussen's account in Paris. He would send some of those moneys to Tunisia, and the rest he invested in various firms, including the firm for electrical appliances headquartered in Paris, Circle (Department) 13. It seems that it was this activity that started the movement's leadership thinking about ousting him from the official executive office so that his financing links to Iran would not be discovered. That was because Mokni had made mistakes, such as registering the electrical appliance firms in the name of one of his relatives, and having contacts with numerous parties with which the movement did not wish to have contacts. Therefore, he was not "elected" in the new executive office as a first step towards disavowing his activities and finding a way out of the situation in which the movement had been accused of getting money from Iran.

Iranian Activities

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Jul 85 pp 15-16

[Article: "Khosrowshahi: 'Ghannouchi Deserves to be the First President of the Islamic Republic'"]

[Text] Seyyed Hadi Khosrowshahi is no ordinary man of religion. No one had heard of him before the revolution, but he was a writer, a journalist and a scientific researcher who had participated in many scientific symposia, and he was in charge of the most widespread philosophical and religious magazine at that time, MAJALLAT-E MAKTAB-E ESLAM.

He was also one of the principle members in the Islamic House of REvelation that had been founded by the supreme Ayatollah Mohammad Kazem Shari'at-Madari.

The House of Revelation used to publish dozens of books and magazines in 15 languages, including Arabic, Urdu, Turkish, English, French and German.

Thus Khosrowshahi was not of the likes of Khalkhali (the first butcher), or Mohammad Gilani, or even Hashemi Rafsanjani, who changed overnight from "Rowzekhan, or reciters of religious poetry," into leaders of the revolution and heads of Iran.

Perhaps because of his preeminence and his nonrecognition of the men who took over the revolution in Iran--with the support of the American ambassador Mr William Sullivan, and the British ambassador, Sir Anthony Parsons--Khosrowshahi did not worry about the authorities, but rather began to encourage Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari, the greatest of the Shi'ite ayatollahs known for the extent of his knowledge, to form a political party that represented his line of thought. Khosrowshahi used to believe that the Islamic Republican Party that had been established by the triumvirate of Beheshti, Rafsanjani and Khamene'i with the blessing of Ayatollah Khomeyni would become the sole power if left unopposed.

The party of the Muslim People's Republic was in fact established with the blessing of Shari'at-Madari and his followers under the leadership of Seyyed Khosrowshahi.

Within just 3 months, this party became the largest and most important of Iran's parties, since its members came to number 4 million in the region of Azerbaijan and Khorasan alone.

It became clear that a party of this size would be a threat to the regime. For this reason, plots against the party began to be arranged, and after several months, Seyyed Hadi Khosrowshahi left the party of which he had been one of the most important founders, and there began to be conflicts between him and the leaders of the regime. A number of party leaders were arrested; some were executed and others were thrown into prison.

But what about Seyyed Khosrowshahi?

He was not subjected to any act of repression, rather Ayatollah Khomeyni chose him as his representative in the Ministry of Islamic Guidance. There he tried to combat censorship before it became a compulsory law, for he himself had endured censorship in the days of the shah. However, his efforts failed, since newspapers, magazines, and thousands of books were seized by order of the public prosecutor, Azri Qomi, or by order of Ayatollah Khomeyni himself.

Seyyed Khosrowshahi had failed in his confrontation with the Islamic Republican Party, and he had not succeeded in his stand against legal censorship, so he decided to leave Iran

This time it was with the title "His Grace" Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Hadi Khosrowshahiyan, representative of the Imam Khomeyni and ambassador of the Islamic Republic to the Vatican.

Those who know Khosrowshahi were surprised by his acceptance of that post. They had expected that he would be appointed minister of guidance or as ambassador to India or Algeria. Nevertheless, Khosrowshahi accepted this minor post, and has been able to expand his influence to the point that he has become more important than even the prime minister.

If we take a look at what he has done during the past 4 years, we will discover the following activities:

1- Founding of the Islamic Cultural Center in Europe, which publishes more than 20 newspapers, magazines and books every month in 10 languages, including Arabic.

Every one of these newspapers and magazines paints an imaginary picture of the "Islamic Republic" for the reader, without mentioning the executions and arrests that were brought on by the policies of the regime of the ayatollahs in Iran.

2- Founding of the Islamic League, which oversees informational activity directed against states which the Islamic Republic considers to be its enemies. This is the league that incites whoever recognized defends Imam Khomeyni's leadership.

It is also the league that takes care of the expenses of printing the books and newspapers opposing the governments of Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt.

3- The founding in London of the Arabic language magazine AL-'ALAM, which represents the imam's line of thought among Arabic newspapers.

4- The founding of a publishing house in London on Tottingham Court Road for publishing books, especially those that represent the line of "the state of the religious expert," and that call for dominion over the Arab region.

5- The founding of the Dar ol-Karvan in Paris, and its financial support.

In addition to these accomplishments, there are a number of unpublicized cultural and informational activities that Seyyed Khosrowshahi carries out against the independence of Islamic and Arab states.

It seems that sending checks to leaders of the Tunisian MTI and supporting it financially fall within this unpublicized activity.

However, the publication and distribution of the book "The Islamic Tendency Movement in Tunisia" by Rashid Ghanushi was not for its part a secret act. Rather it was an act of which Hojjat ol-Eslam Khosrowshahi was proud, because the Islamic Republic's ambassador to the Vatican believes that Rashid Ghanuschi deserves to become the first president of the Islamic Republic in Tunisia!

12547

CSO: 4504/439

BAHRAIN

PRIME MINISTER ON ECONOMIC REGIONAL ISSUES

GF281642 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 28 Jul 85 p 3

[Interview with Shaykh Khalifah Ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini Prime Minister, by Ahmad Kamal, responsible editor of AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, date not given]

[Excerpts] The economic recession is apparent in the entire region, and Bahrain is also afflicted. The economists say that the reason for that is the bad economic administration and the rapid economic increase that prevailed in economic matters in this part of the world. What is your highness' opinion in this regard?

Prime Minister: I agree with you that the region is passing through an economic recession and Bahrain, which is an inseparable part of the region, is also afflicted. This is due to many international reasons, such as international monetary fluctuations and the downturn in economic growth in many countries, as well as domestic reasons, such as the Iraqi-Iranian war and the economic crisis which the region went through, as well as the decrease in oil prices. All of this led to the recession in the region, which I have talked about, which naturally reflected on domestic conditions. However, we in Bahrain are the least affected, due to our policy of diversification of revenue sources and nondependence on one source. In my opinion the current situation that the region is passing through will not last long and the situation will improve. However, I disagree with the idea of blaming it on bad economic administration. It is true that there has been some extravagance but the Gulf countries profited greatly from what you call the rapid economic growth which prevailed in the region; as they used this chance to perfect their basic structure, to increase spending on development projects and improve services to their citizens, and were able to link their economy with the world economy until the majority of them reached a level of existence even without needing a second economic jump. They need only the support, efforts, and loyalty of their citizens and to direct the expenditures toward development.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ: Has there been any security coordination between the GCC countries to prevent the recurrence of events such as the criminal acts in fraternal Kuwait and the attack on the Amir's motorcade and the explosion of the public areas, and is there a united GCC plan to counter terrorism?

Prime Minister: We were very upset about what happened in fraternal Kuwait recently. Perhaps I mentioned in a previous interview that whatever happened in Kuwait is an attack against all of us because the security of the region is one and cannot be separated.

Thus, the security coordination between the GCC countries is continuing and has never stopped, because all are aware that any individual measure does not realize the desired security. We hope to increase this coordination. The more the coordination increases the stronger will be the security, and we will all enjoy stability.

We must all be aware that the responsibility of preventing the recurrence of such incidents does not only lie with the official security networks, but the citizen also has an important and effective role. He must always be alert to such attempts and become a guard for himself, his family, and fatherland in order to foil all foreign conspiracies hatched against him in order to disturb his security and the stability of his fatherland, to steal his achievements, and obstruct his progress.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ: From time to time Iranian delegates on various levels visit Arab Gulf states. Could your highness expound on the results of these visits and their aims, particularly after it has become evident that the Iranian leaders insist on the continuation of the war against Iraq and continue to refuse all peace initiatives and mediations?

Prime Minister: We always support any effort to end this destructive war and to end this continuous waste of human and material capacities of the two neighboring countries and to ensure stability for our region.

On this basis we welcome any initiative in this regard and on every occasion urge the Iranian leaders to resort to peace, particularly as the brothers in Iraq always respond with peace initiatives. The continuous support and constant efforts of the GCC countries in this regard is very clear.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ: Your highness, do you believe that the GCC states and other countries are giving sufficient support to fraternal Iraq in its war against Iran?

Prime Minister: Iraq is an inseparable part of our Arab nation. Its security is part of the national Arab security. From this aspect we are obliged as an Arab nation to support Iraq, stave off the threats against it and ensure the security of its land. These are duties dictated by Arab fraternity and the fateful circumstances that we are all experiencing. We should always keep this in mind--we the people of the Arab nation in the Gulf, the Arab Mashriq, and the Arab Maghreb.

However, I say that when war breaks out in a region, it is difficult to put a quick end to it due to various overlapping factors. I believe the greatest support which everyone can give to the two countries is to work in various ways and means to stop this war and the human and material capacities that it is wasting, which could have been used for the interest of the people of the

two countries and could have ensured the stability of the region. In my opinion this is the real and fruitful support which should be given by everyone.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ: Jordan has resumed relations with Egypt, and Iraq is following the same track. Your highness, is it not high time for Egypt's return or for the return to Egypt, particularly when Egypt's clear pan-Arab stand is far better than that of many Arab countries?

Prime Minister: I was one of the first people to call for reviewing the resolutions which were adopted against Egypt and to call for Egypt's return to the Arab fold. I still maintain this stand and I voice it on every occasion. No one can deny Egypt's weight to our Arab world and the extent of the harm the two sides have sustained after Egypt was kept away from the Arab fold. Egypt's interests are tied to those of the Arabs and the Arabs' interests are tied to that of Egypt through its historical weight, pan-Arab stand, and continued contribution toward the causes of its Arab nation. The Egyptian leadership is fully aware of this role and is sincerely working for the general good of its Arab nation. President Husni Mubarak's pan-Arab stand is commendable. This all requires us to work to return Egypt to its nation as soon as possible to enable it to carry its role fully toward the fateful Arab causes.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ: What is your highness' view on the biased U.S. stand to the Israeli enemy? The United States has announced, through its officials, its approval of the names of some Palestinians included in the list of names of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and then went back on this approval after blatant Israeli pressures.

Prime Minister: I do not believe any of us does not understand the U.S. foreign policy. Perhaps the most important question is: What shall we do to convince the U.S. side of our just causes and to adopt a moderate stand on them? Shall we resign ourselves to condemnations only and of Israel's ability to win over the United States? I believe what we should do at this stage is to use all channels by which we can convince the U.S. public opinion of our just demands. We should use the channels of negotiations with the U.S. society or what is called the "lobby" to make the U.S. stand favorable to the Arabs. In my view, this can only be made through a realistic Arab strategy which takes into consideration all influential factors in order to surmount the obstacles which we are facing in our efforts to reach a just peaceful settlement. It is unity of Arab ranks, views, and movement which we require at this stage in order to come closer to our goal.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ: In a press interview published recently, your highness said that it is necessary to establish relations with the USSR because it is a superpower just like the United States. Has this issue been discussed or is there a trend to discuss it within the GCC?

Prime Minister: The USSR is one of the two world superpowers. It has its influence in international affairs just like the United States. This requires us to consider our ties with these countries, including the USSR, out of our interests and the current international developments.

Anyhow, adopting a decision on this issue by the region's countries requires consultations among them as countries which have the same fate, future, and goal within the strategy of integration on which we agreed through the GCC. If the resumption of relations with the USSR or with other countries serves our interests, this step will be made at the proper time and without hesitation. The interests of our countries, peoples, and region are the framework which governs our final decisions and the goal we are all confidently seeking.

CSO: 4400/233

BAHRAIN

BRIEFS

FUNDS FOR KEY SERVICES--Bahrain's key services have been given a massive BD 1.2 billion government spending boost. The money will pay for airport expansion, four new shipping berths and a hospital. Services related to housing, electricity, roads, water and drainage systems are also included in the project, scheduled to start next year. "The development plan will start next year and end in 1991," said Rashid al-Mir, under secretary at the Ministry of Finance. "The plan to develop the airport and seaports is needed to meet the probable congestion in these areas during the 1990s," he added. [Excerpt] [Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 27 Jul 85 p 1 GF]

CSO: 4400/233

ISRAEL

CONTRETEMPS WITH ALGERIAN OFFICER AT GERMAN MILITARY SCHOOL

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 May 85 p 9

[Article by Hayim Kol: "Israeli-Algerian Incident in Hamburg"]

[Text] The following document comes from an IDF officer who was sent to West Germany for advanced studies at a headquarters command school:

The school for headquarters command [pikud umate] of the West German army has among its courses a class for general headquarters command for countries that do not belong to NATO. It also features courses for NATO member states and German national courses. The school (Fuhrungs Akademie des Bundeswehr) is in Hamburg. The course I am attending is attended by representatives from various countries: Egypt, Sudan, Algeria, Pakistan, Indonesia, the Philippines, Yugoslavia, Venexuela, Australia, Switzerland, South Korea, Japan, Burundi, and Brazil. According to a prior agreement, the course does not deal with politics and international affairs concerning the countries represented in class. The agreement is observed by one and all, except for one event, called "Day of International Information," at which each country represented is featured in a 2-hour lecture. The lecture touches upon all aspects of the respective country, including national security and a military presentation. Naturally, at such a lecture there is conflict between the views of the Israeli delegate and delegates from Egypt, Sudan, Algeria, or Pakistan. Nevertheless, it is agreed that on that day it is the right of the student to present his country's interests, even if from a political viewpoint they are opposed to the interests of other countries represented at the course. In view of the decision not to mix politics with the course, each student is invited to each lecture, as well as to the cocktail party given by the host country after the lecture.

Details of the Incident

Like the rest of the students, the Algerian officer (Captain Ramra) was also invited to my lecture, which was held on 15 January 1985 at 1500, and to the cocktail party at 1700. Without any previous announcement, the Algerian officer did not show up either for the lecture or the cocktail party. The next day, the course commander received a complaint from the Arab-Muslim circle of the course (Egypt, Sudan, Algeria, and Pakistan) claiming that my lecture has been too political. The course commanding officer (Lt Col Von Howe) explained to those representatives that it is not possible to speak about the establishment

of the State of Israel, its national interests, and the Israeli national security policy without coming into conflict with Arab interests. That is to say, it was my right to say what I did. In any event, the text of my lecture had been a few days previously read by the Bonn consulate and the commander of the course, who had no remarks. After the matter was explained to the complaint authors, the latter proceeded with the agenda. Later, the Algerian officer claimed that he had looked for me to tell me that he would not be attending my lecture, but had been unable to find me! He also said that the Algerian military attache in Bonn had forbidden him to attend an official event held under the Israeli flag because Algeria is at war with Israel (I was not aware of this fact).

On the Algerian national day there was a lecture followed by a cocktail party.

On Monday, the day before the Algerian day, at 1700 the commander of my course, Lt Col Von Howe summoned me and informed me officially that the Algerian officer had been instructed by the Algerian ambassador in Bonn to agree to my presence at the cocktail party, but not to shake my hand. I asked Lt Col Von Howe what he thought about this request; he suggested that I should come to the party, but not stand in the line to shake hands with the hosts, entering instead through a side door, thus totally avoiding the Algerian hosts.

I told the German officer that I was very surprised at his attitude and his short memory, and that I was not prepared to be a party to this new "selection" of Jews/Israelis in Germany, or to enter through the side. Consequently, I announced that I would not be attending the event, since I did not consider myself invited under those conditions. The course commander accepted my decision as an easy way out. In point of fact, he was pleased that I would not attend, and said that now it could be simply stated that I would not participate in the Algerian event because the Algerian did not participate in the Israeli one. I stared at him in amazement (and could not decide whether Lt Col Von Howe did not understand what he was saying or was only pretending not to understand) and said that this was not true. The Algerian did not come to the Israeli event although he had been invited according to all the rules, upon his embassy's instruction, while I would not be going to the Algerian event because I had not received a proper invitation and because of the slur cast on me as an Israeli officer representing the State of Israel. The course commander finally grasped what I was saying and agreed that indeed, there was a significant difference. I told him that I intended to report to the Israeli attache in Bonn about the incident, and asked him to put the case to the other officers in the course and to explain the reasons for my failure to attend the Algerian event, so that it would not be interpreted as a retaliation for the absence of the Algerian from the Israeli event. The course commander promised to do so. However, he did not keep his promise, not on Monday, and not the day after (Tuesday 26 March 1985), when the Algerian event took place. At the event itself, Lt Col Von Howe mentioned my absence in his opening address, but in such a way as to leave unclear the reasons for my absence, chalking it up, rather, to the relations between Israel and Algeria.

Since by Monday (25 March) noon the course commander had not talked to the other course officers, I informed him that I requested an immediate interview with the major general (general) who was the commanding officer of the school. Since he was absent, I was received by the deputy commanding officer, Brigadier General (Hegene), at 1500.

He was going to put the Algerian delegation in its place and inform it in no uncertain terms that the incident had greatly affected the school.

Naturally, I was not present at the general's meeting with the Algerian delegation, but I was told that he indeed put the Algerians in their place; the latter were deeply insulted, not having thought that the incident they caused would elicit such a sharp reaction. Since on Monday the course commander had not summoned the officers to explain the reasons for my intention to stay away from the coming event, I asked General Hegene to remind Lt Col Von Howe of his obligation. The general promised to do so and added that if Lt Col Howe would not speak to the officers, he would. On Tuesday (the day of the event), General Hegene came to the lecture hall but delivered no explanation, as he had promised. That being the situation (namely that the incident was going to be passed under silence, without a proper reaction), I called the IDF attache in Bonn, who was away, and asked his secretary to try to locate him. The attache could not be reached. I explained the situation to the secretary and told her that, in my opinion, an official reaction to the incident was needed. It was agreed that the secretary would check with the Israeli consul in Bonn and call me back with the result. She telephoned a few minutes later to say that in the consul's opinion, since both I and the Algerian were guests of the Germans, I should simply stay home and say nothing and that an official reaction was not called for. This answer did not satisfy me, but there was no one else I could turn to.

On Tuesday evening I received a call from the Israeli attache, and to my joy, he did not agree with the consul, but with me. The attache dictated to me a statement in his name, which I was to circulate in the school with the permission of the course commander, thus clarifying our position on the matter. I translated the statement into German and presented it to the course commander, asking for his permission to circulate it. The course commander consulted (I assume) with General Hegene. After grasping that if they did not allow the officers at their quarters, they allowed it on one condition, namely, that it be circulated in my name, not in the name of the military attache. I retyped the statement, which was handed to all 16 delegate officers, including the German officer--General Klaus and Brigadier General Hegene--and the Algerian officer. That was, for the time being, the end of the affair.

I noted that the Egyptian officer (Lieutenant Colonel Kairy) was not too sorry about the incident, not necessarily because of Israel, but because of the discomfiture of the Algerian.

--An Israeli officer will again attend this course next year. I view the presence of an Israeli officer there as very important, so that Israel should not be represented to neutral countries one-sidedly by hostile countries, thus seriously harming Israeli interests.

--Next year, the course will also be attended by officers from Egypt, Sudan, Algeria, and Saudi Arabia (2 officers). It is important to call the school's attention to this incident in order to avoid a repetition; and if it is not avoided, an appropriate reaction should be prepared to put forward Israel's case.

12782

CSO: 4423/62

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

ECONOMIC GROWTH IN RAS AL-KHAIMAH

Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 20 Jun 85 p 6

[Text]

The Emirate of Ras al Khaimah, which began 1984 by entering the league of the world's oil producers, has also made spectacular strides in other aspects of economy, in keeping with its pledge to contribute more effectively in the progress of the UAE federation.

The first well, Saleh-1-X, of the northernmost of the seven-member federation began producing on January 5 at the rate of 5,000 barrels a day.

The production, 11 months after the discovery of the field, was described by independent sources as a record period by international standards.

Saleh-2 came on stream in April, bringing the total production from the two wells to 9,000bpd.

The Saleh-1 well struck oil and gas at a depth of 15,880 feet in 320 feet of water, while the second well was also struck in the same structure reaching approximately the same target depth. These two are part of a \$125 million three-well early production system.

The operator for Ras al Khaimah's offshore concession is Gulf Offshore Ras al Khaimah Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Gulf Oil Corporation.

The concession is held 50 per cent by the Ras al Khaimah National Oil Company, 25.23 per cent by Gulf Offshore Ras al Khaimah Ltd and the rest by International Petroleum Ltd. Overseas Petroleum and Investment Corporation and Wintershall AG.

The production unit is a converted jack-up rig from which the two further producers are being drilled through individual well-heads.

A floating storage unit, in the form of a converted tanker, provides the system with a capacity of 30,000bpd in mid-1984.

Peak production from all three wells is estimated to have been in the range of 23 to 26,000bpd in mid-1984.

Further development plans include the tying-in of platform units by individual flow lines and installation of a flare platform, while the Government considers how best to use the associated gas.

CSO: 4400/229

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

MOVES TO PROTECT GULF INDUSTRY

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 17 Aug 85 p 6

[Editorial]

[Text]

KUWAIT has just announced far-reaching measures to give protection to its national industry. Oil and Industry Minister Shaikh Ali Khalifa has said that the measures are aimed at helping the fledgling local industry to compete effectively with foreign imports. Products meeting at least 40 per cent of the domestic market requirements will be eligible for protection in terms of tax and duty support. Goods to benefit most will be those which come out of the production line with at least 40 per cent more value than that of the material used to produce them.

The idea is to encourage the production of those goods which contribute to the national wealth by adding value to imported or local raw materials or partly-finished products at various stages of manufacture and marketing. The maximum tariff and duty protection will be 25 per cent for goods with 40 per cent or more added value; 20 per cent for goods with more than 30 per cent added value; and up to 15 per cent relief for the products whose value has been enhanced by the local manufacturers by at least 20 per cent. The relief will be effective for three years and will be renewed if required.

The minister said that the decision is aimed to help the local industry to grow faster by successfully meeting the needs of the local market, and thus increase the contribution of the non-oil national industry to the Gross Domestic Product. This contribution has so far been only marginal and, therefore, did not serve the national objective of diversifying the economy and reducing its 'over-dependence' on oil.

A significant aspect of the decision is that consumer items will get a maximum of only five per cent tax and duty protection and that too if the industrial development committee set up by the Kuwaiti government is satisfied that the protection measures would not result in the production and marketing of sub-standard consumer items, to the detriment of the interest of the people. Shaikh Ali Khalifa said that the well-being of consumers, the people, was the main concern of the government and that manufacturers of items of daily necessity would not be helped by the government in producing the marketing goods inferior to those imported.

The tax and duty support is over and above the 15 per cent tariff protection already in force in Kuwait for new industrial ventures, covering such items as paints, car batteries, certain plastic products,

cast iron products, pasta and liquid detergents. This also does not include the 10 per cent preferential margin that national products already enjoy for the purposes of government purchases.

While the cabinet decision makes it clear that new relief measures are applicable only to products marketed in Kuwait and not to those exported—thereby indirectly asking the manufacturers to improve the competitiveness of their products in foreign markets—it offers similar protection in the country's market to goods produced in the other Arab Gulf Cooperation Council states. This is a significant step taken by a sisterly AGCC country to treat local products on a par with those of the other council members. The move will definitely help to expedite the process of unification and eventual integration of the region's economies which are at similar stages of development. Moreover, it can serve as a model for other Gulf countries like the UAE whose industrialists too have been asking for protection for local products.

Shaikh Ali, while announcing the decision, also referred to the protectionist measures taken by the European Economic Community to block the import of petrochemical products of the Gulf states. Although the Kuwaiti decision is in the nature of a first step keeping in view the quantity and variety of goods foreign manufacturers, particularly of Western countries, dump in the Gulf market, this may nevertheless serve as a mild warning to those who have come up with protectionist barriers to stop the marketing of the first industrial product of this region—petrochemicals produced from genuinely local raw material—crude oil.

CSO: 4400/230

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

INDUSTRIALIZATION STATISTICS

Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS in English 14 Jun 85 p 3

[Text]

ABU DHABI: The past decade has seen substantial expansion in the country's industrial sector, according to figures released by the Emirates Industrial Bank, EIB, with nearly 75,000 people now involved in the sector.

In statistics in its recent annual report, the EIB notes that there are now a total of 820 manufacturing companies throughout the UAE employing ten or more people. The concentration is mainly in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah, but each of the other emirates is also contributing to the expansion of local manufacturing industry.

Between 1975 and 1984, the total number of people employed in industrial units rose from 17,000 to around 74,000, representing more than ten per cent of the country's total work force. Around 65 per cent of these were employed in the 820 units employing ten or more people.

The tables reproduced below show the distribution of the country's industrial establishments, and the type of industry involved.

Distribution of Industrial Establishments in UAE

| Location | No. of Industrial Establishments |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Abu Dhabi | 221 |
| Dubai | 305 |
| Sharjah | 142 |
| Ajman | 64 |
| Umm Al-Qaiwair | 18 |
| Ras Al-Khaimah | 52 |
| Fujairah | 18 |
| TOTAL | 820 |

Employment in Industry

| Industry Group | No. of Establish. | No. of Workers |
|--|-------------------|----------------|
| Food and Beverage | 87 | 7550 |
| Textile and Apparel | 78 | 1940 |
| Wood Products and Furniture | 92 | 3800 |
| Paper, Paper Products, Printing and Publishing | 90 | 4910 |
| Chemical and Chemical Products | 82 | 5120 |
| Non-Metallic Mineral Products (Cement, Blocks, etc.) | 192 | 11620 |
| Fabricated Metal Product | 185 | 12920 |
| Other Industries | 14 | 890 |
| TOTAL | 820 | 47750 |

The progress achieved in expanding local industry is, of course, evidence of the success of plans, at a federal and at a local level, in diversifying the sources of the country's income, away from oil and gas in the case of those emirates fortunate enough to be endowed with hydrocarbons, and away from the traditional agriculture and fishing in the other emirates.

The task of the Emirates Industrial Bank is, of course, to provide an extra boost to this process, diverting Government and private funds into the expansion of the industrial sector. From details given in the Bank's report, however, it is apparent that the process of diversification was well under way even before the EIB was established by Presidential decree in 1982.

In 1975, the gross fixed capital formation, GFCF in the manufacturing sector amounted to only 2.3 billion dirhams, out of a national total GFCF of 12.0 billion dirhams.

By 1979, this had risen to 10.7 billion dirhams, the peak, before a slight decline caused by the country's economic recession. In the past couple of years, however, thanks partly to the activities of the EIB, the downward trend has been reversed, and total GFCF in the manufacturing sector is once again on the increase.

In 1980, GFCF was 30.1 billion dirhams, of which 9.9 billion was in the manufacturing sector. The next year GFCF rose only slightly, to 31.1 billion dirhams, which the share of manufacturing industry falling to 9.0 billion dirhams.

Over the past couple of years, however, the trend has been once again rising. In 1983, GFCF rose to 32.1 billion dirhams, with the manufacturing share rising to 9.2 billion dirhams, while last year, although the total GFCF remained the same, the amount in the manufacturing sector rose to 9.6 billion dirhams.

The future development of the manufacturing sector is likely to rely heavily on the development of medium and small scale industries by the private sector, and it is in this sphere that the EIB is likely to be most active. Some of its loans, all on very easy terms, are small, as little as 2.5 million dirhams, while the average amount of the 24 loans agreed up to the end of 1984 was only 5.5 million dirhams. Thus far, the EIB has concentrated its activities on providing finance for existing industries, so that they can update their equipment, or so that they can replace existing loans, at commercial rates, from other banks within the country.

This year, however, according to EIB General Manager Anis al Jallaf, "efforts will be directed towards establishing new projects, creating an appropriate atmosphere for productive investments, and industrial co-ordination and development in local and regional fields."

CSO: 4400/230

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

BUDGET DEFICIT FIGURES

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 15 Aug 85 p 13

[Text]

UAE's budget deficit this year may be significantly lower than that of last year banking estimates published in Dubai yesterday predicted.

Dubai's Al Bayan daily quoted a bulletin of the United Gulf Bank as saying that deficit this year would be about Dh1.8 billion against last year's Dh4.4 billion.

The estimates are based on rationalisation of government expenditure to the tune of Dh2.4 billion this year. In 1984, government expenditure amounted to Dh14.8 billion. This year's revenues, however, remained at Dh12.9 billion, the same as last year.

The UAE has been progressively reducing its budget deficit through a

combination of economy measures and reduction in the size of the budget.

Last year's deficit of Dh4.4 billion in the Dh17.2 billion budget was lower than the Dh5.5 billion deficit in the previous year's budget of Dh18.4 billion.

To tackle the deficit in successive budgets, the UAE in 1984 set up a committee that was to rationalise government expenses. The minister for Finance and Industry, Shaikh Hamdan bin Rashid is on record that the committee effected a saving of one billion dirhams for the federal government.

In May this year, Shaikh Hamdan was quoted as saying that the current year's budget may be smaller than that of last year. At that time, he had held out hopes of a reduced deficit as well as an increase in federal revenue.

CSO: 4400/230

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

INDUSTRIAL PLANTS IN SHARJAH

Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 5-11 Aug 85 p 54

[Article by Philip Shehadi in Sharjah]

[Text]

The grass lettering on a roundabout in this ancient Gulf trading port reads: "Smile, you are in Sharjah." The welcome is for tourists, but officials in Sharjah Emirate, one of seven forming the United Arab Emirates (UAE), have equal reason to smile.

Inland, a jet of flame marks the Sajaa gas field, where rising output is boosting Sharjah's fortunes at a time when oil-based economies elsewhere in the Gulf are contracting. The field was discovered in 1980 when Sharjah had debts of more than a billion dollars, accumulated during a 1970s economic boom that went wrong.

Pledged revenue from the offshore Mubarak oil field, shared with Iran, had failed to materialize and borrowed cash was used for big road, bridge, port and airport projects.

Since 1980, when revenues in neighboring emirates began to peak, Sharjah's annual income has grown from 60 million dollars to a projected 500 million this year, bankers say. Debt servicing has been cut back and plans are

proceeding for two petrochemical complexes in the port of Hamriya.

UPBEAT

The economy of Sharjah, with a population of 160,000, is small compared with neighboring Dubai and Abu Dhabi, and is not immune from regional recessionary trends. The Iran-Iraq war, which started in September 1980, has hit trade and dozens of factories operate below capacity because of marketing difficulties, businessmen say.

But officials reflect an upbeat mood. "We are better off this year than in '84 and next year will be even better," Chamber of Commerce Director Abdelrazak Hajiri says.

Sharjah recently signed an agreement to supply Dubai with 70 million cubic feet a day of Sajaa gas, which bankers predict will bring in an annual 25 million dollars when a pipeline is completed in 1986. The deal followed the resolution of a border dispute with Dubai that may also open new offshore areas for oil exploration.

Next June, a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) plant at Hamriya will come on stream with an annual capacity of 400,000 tons of butane and propane. Bankers say revenues should reach an annual 50 million dollars.

Both gas deals will more than compensate for revenue losses from the declining Mubarak field, which oil industry sources say has only five years to run. Output from the Mubarak field is 6,000 barrels per day (BPD), about a quarter of the peak achieved in the 1970s. Sharjah already exports 60,000 BPD of Sajaa condensate.

DEBT SERVICING

Bankers say, however, that debt servicing will continue to be a major drain on revenues. The signing in June of a 154-million-dollar loan — Sharjah's fourth international credit in a year — will ease the short-term burden, but large payments will remain through the decade, they say. Last year, nearly half the total revenue

of 450 million dollars went to repay debts. Bankers say the figure may be around 150 million this year.

The emirate is negotiating agreements for two petrochemical projects — a 1,000-ton-per-day ammonia/urea plant and a 500,000-ton-per-year methanol complex, both using Sajaa gas as feedstock.

While taking majority shares in both, Sharjah's government wants foreign partners to share financing and marketing risks. The Saudi-based Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation is a prospective partner for the methanol

project, along with Wimpey Engineering and Davy McKee of Britain and Tenneco of the United States. They have formed the Sharjah Chemical Company, which hopes to conclude a financing package by the end of the year.

Both Kellogg of the United States and France's Charbonnages de France Chimie recently submitted proposals for marketing output from an eventual ammonia plant, industry sources say.

Some industry observers question whether the plants are feasible at a time when

similar projects recently have come on stream in nearby Saudi Arabia.

Trade. Sharjah's traditional economic base, has picked up this year, the Chamber of Commerce says. Exports and re-exports totalled 336 million dirhams (91 million dollars) in the first six months, compared with 575 million dirhams (156 million dollars) for the whole of 1984. Most imports come through Dubai.

Development of a new port at Khor Fakkan, in a Sharjah enclave on the Gulf of Oman outside the Strait of Hormuz, has brought a contract from a U.S. shipping line.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

NEW AIRPORTS PLANNED

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 8 Aug 85 p 3

[Text]

TWO more airports are expected to be added to the vast network of airports in the country, in the next three years. Fujairah international airport is likely to be opened to traffic next year, while the Al Ain international airport is likely to be ready by 1988.

Reliable sources at the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, (Adnoc), indicate that the company is preparing itself for providing supplies to both of these airports once they are commissioned. Experts working for the company are currently engaged in planning the details of provisional supplies of fuel oil, aviation fuel and other requirements for the two airports.

The company had recently stepped up its production of aviation fuel as compared to other products. The two refineries at Ruwais and Umm Al Nar produce about eight different qualities of fuel. The Umm Al Nar refinery, which recently stepped up production from 15,000 barrels a day to 75,000 barrels a day, is likely to provide the larger quantity of aviation fuel, to the two airports.

Storage facilities at both the airports are being planned and it will be for the first time that Adnoc will be directly handling operations of fuelling in Fujairah.

The Fujairah airport is estimated to become one of the most important transit points in the region, if Fujairah becomes the main centre for storing food.

Both Fujairah and Al Ain are to be developed as important centres for growing and storing food for the AGCC countries, in accordance with a plan approved by the AGCC Secretariat.

Work underway at the Al Ain international airport is to be completed in accordance with a three-tier programme, involving the construction of the main terminal, storage facilities and other ancillaries.

● THE National Petroleum Construction Company, (NPCC), one of the main subsidiaries of Adnoc is now serving the oil industry of the AGCC states, with two major contracts in Qatar and one in Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi Arabian contract, known to be one of the most prestigious contracts in the oil industry, has also paved the way for an international award for NPCC. Last year the company received the British Safety Council award for doing exemplary work on its project for Aramco.

In Qatar, the company is carrying out a major project, involving the layout of pipelines. The company has recently purchased barges for carrying out the marine pipeline laying work.

At its giant storage in the island of Sadiyath, a few kilometre off the coast of Abu Dhabi, the company maintains a large supply of material required for the pipelines. It is reported that the company is currently in possession of about 33,415 tons of steel.

Besides the massive quantity of steel, the company possesses material for casing extending upto 161 kilometres. Pipelines ready to be laid out in the marine areas are available with the company.

These pipelines could extend upto 260 kilometres.

A large quantity of asphalt for large-scale construction jobs involving the construction of oil ports, is also ready at the storage of the company.

WAM adds that with the increase in the production capacity of Umm Al Nar refinery the aviation fuel requirements of the Abu Dhabi international airport

are being met by the refinery independent of the Ruwais refinery, according to a report in the latest issue of 'Mujtama Al Petrol', an Adnoc magazine.

The rise in production of aviation fuel was made possible with the expansion in the refinery made last April.

The fuel is stored in five tanks in the refinery and after necessary tests transferred to Adnoc tanks for distribution.

CSO: 4400/229

AFGHANISTAN

STATE PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO PEASANTS

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 21 Jul 85 p 2

[Text]

Simultaneously with the distribution of land to peasants and implementation of different stages of land and water reforms in the DRA, peasants of the country broadly use chemical fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides in a bid to better utilization of their lands. The Revolutionary state of Afghanistan has consistently prepared and put at the disposal of the country's peasants a considerable quantity of chemical fertilizers, improved seeds as well as agricultural machinery.

Now the peasants have learned well the use of chemical fertilizers and improved seeds, and understand better the fact that the chemical fertilizers boost the output of their lands and lessen the danger of liquidation of their products from the attack of insects and plant diseases. That is why they go, in groups, to the agencies of the Afghan Chemical Fertilizers and Agricultural Services Company, and obtain, from there, whatever quantity of chemical fertilizers they

may need.

A spokesman of the Afghan Chemical Fertilizers and Agricultural Services, said: "The Company has always endeavoured to prepare, store, distribute, transport and put in time at the disposal of peasants variety of chemical fertilizers, improved wheat seeds, insecticides and pesticides. For instance, a sufficient quantity of chemical fertilizers has been transported, stored and distributed in the main centres of the country, i.e., in Kabul, Mazare-Sharif, Farwan, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Herat and Pulikhomri. The needed quantity of fertilizers will be sent to some other provinces such as Orozgan, Ghor, Badghis and Paktia in accordance with the envisaged plan.

"A quantity of 71,623 tons of chemical fertilizers, over 4,300 tons of improved seeds and 46.14 million-Afghanis worth agricultural and animal drugs have been sold to the peasants and livestock-breeders of the country in the spring campaign.

ign of the current Afghan year (began March 21, 1965). The services of the Company earned 630 million Afghanis only in the field of distribution of chemical fertilizers and drugs for plant diseases in the first quarter of the current year.

The Company has at its hand the plan on distribution of 130,000 tons of chemical fertilizers in the course of the current Afghan year. Out of that, the quantity of 86,700 tons is the fertilizer of Urea type, which is supplied by the local enterprise i.e., the Chemical Fertilizers and Thermo-Power Plant of Mazare-Sharif, and the remaining quantity of 43,300 tons is the fertilizer of phosphate type, which is being supplied from the friendly Soviet Union. Similarly, the distribution of 70-million-Afghanis-worth pesticides and insecticides has also been envisaged in the current year plan of the Company. The Soviet Union has given 23,000 tons out of 43,000 to the DRA as gratis aid.

"In order to meet the requirements of peasants, the Company puts mainly two types of chemi-

al fertilizers at the disposal of peasants. These are the urea and phosphate fertilizers. Other varieties of fertilizers are scarcely used. These consists of fertilizers of potassium-sulphate and potassium-chloride, compound fertilizers of (9.25.25) and (2-20-0) types. These fertilizers are used taking into account the necessity of the environment.

As many as 120 items of drugs for animal and plant diseases are prepared for the peasants and livestock-breeders of the country by the Company. The sulphuric powder is the main item of the said drugs. In order to meet the requirements of the orcharders and vine-growers a quantity of 1,500 tons of this drug was purchased from the Soviet Union and sold to the orcharders of the country.

To render more services to the peasants, the Company sells, along with variety of chemical fertilizers and agricultural drugs, small agricultural implements to the peasants against cash, through its retail sale outlets and co-operatives throughout the country.

AFGHANISTAN

YOUTH DELEGATION LEAVES FOR MOSCOW

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 24 Jul 85 p 1

[Text]

KABUL, (BIA).—

Youth delegation of the DRA, to the forthcoming 12th World Youth and Students Festival, left Kabul for Moscow yesterday.

Farid Ahmad Muzdak, First Secretary of the Democratic Youth Organisation of Afghanistan (DYOA) who is heading the Afghan delegation, told a Bakhtar correspondent that the 150-strong youth delegation has been chosen from among the best of Afghan youth.

He added that the best representatives of the workers, peasants, artists, sportsmen, students, officers and soldiers are included in the group.

Muzdak added, "we can state with confidence that the delegation of Afghan youth will actively participate in all programmes of the 12th Festival and will reflect the true face of the Afghan youth in the festival".

Muzdak pointed out that the Afghan delegation will work during the festival for the practical realisation of the slogans of the festival, i.e., peace and the anti-imperialist solidarity of the youth of all countries.

Participants of a big gathering of Kabul youth bid farewell to the delegates and asked them to convey their best wishes and that of the people of Afghanistan to the participants of the festival.

CSO: 4600/591

AFGHANISTAN

MEASURES UNDERTAKEN TO CLEAN KABUL

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 22 Jul 85 p 4

[Text]

KABUL, (BIA).—

Eleven groups belonging to the precincts of Kabul city with assistance of the Central Unit by organising in three parts of the city have undertaken crash cleaning work.

As a result of this crash work during the first quarter of the current Afghan year, (begun March 21, 1985) a great quantity of garbage was transferred to the Chamtala desert.

The director of the cleaning and greenery department of Kabul Municipality saying the above added, "During the same period, the concerned departments of the municipality have for eleven times undertaken

crash cleaning work in various parts of the city.

Likewise the Cleaning and Greenery Directorate of the Municipality with co-operation of the UNICEF has undertaken a project for healthier atmosphere whereas some 140 model drainages were constructed in the Khairkhana Mena area and work of another 50 such drainages in the area of Wazirabad Housing Project is envisaged to be completed during the current year. With the construction of the said drainages the cleaning of Kabul city will considerably improve.

The Director added that during the same period some 83 thousand saplings were planted in various par-

ts of the city including in the public parks, schools and on the sides of the roads etc. Moreover, an area of over ten thousand square meters was converted into lawns.

Concluding the director said that in the area of Bibi Mahro Hill by organising voluntary work the Kabul city party committee has played vital and important role. In the Bibi Mahru Hill itself some 28 thousand saplings were planted which covers 90 per cent of the hills in the area. Likewise a swimming pool is under construction in the hill which will be used for irrigation of the hill and for public use.

CSO: 4600/592

AFGHANISTAN

COOPERATIVES PROVIDE GOODS FOR LESS

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 22 Jul 85 p 4

[Text]

KABUL, (BIA).—

In order to assist the army officers of Bibi Mahro project area of Kabul city, store No. 8 of the Peace Consumer Cooperative was inaugurated yesterday in the area of the 10th ward of Kabul city.

In this store which has the membership of more than 240 people, about 60 various kinds of the consumer goods such as flour, rice, mungbean, bean, salt, cloths, footwear, kitchen equipments, fan toys and others are put at the disposal of the consumers.

The initial capital of the store is 500,000 Afghanis. The prices of the goods are lower than the market prices by 5 to 15 per cent.

According to another report, 4 other consumer cooperatives have started their work in the areas of Laghman Province with the total capital of over 2.2 million Afghanis.

A spokesman of the union of the peasants' cooperatives of the province said, that the membership number of the cooperatives reaches to 1,012 persons. Currently the

stores of the cooperatives are activated in the center of the city and the villages of Chelmati and Gamin as well as Alishing district of the province. The necessary primary materials are being supplied by 10-15 per cent cheaper than the market prices, to its members.

The source added that likewise, a handicraft cooperative called Baig Shahid also starts work in the center of the province with the capital of 8,000 Afghanis in which 16 women are organized.

CSO: 4600/592

AFGHANISTAN

CENTER TO TRAIN COMMUNICATIONS EXPERTS

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 24 Jul 85 p 4

[Text]

Considerable qualitative and basic transformations have taken place in economic, social and cultural spheres of life of the country after the victory of the April Revolution, which to a great extent helped meeting the people's needs.

The sphere of communications in our country is a field where these transformations also occurred. The Communication Training Center is one which renders valuable services in training young experts and cadres in the sphere of communication in our country.

Over 350 students both, male and female, are following their studies in various branches of the center such as radio, television, tele-

graph, posts, cable etc. Annually, over 50 young experts are graduated from this center.

A spokesman of the Center said that the Center had been founded in 1966 within the framework of the Ministry of Communications with the help of the United Nations and since then has presented 21 terms graduates to the society. They are now employed in various communication sectors.

Around 80 students after completing the 9th grade of school are annually admitted to this Center after passing an entrance exam. It is considered to increase this number by the coming years.

CSO: 4600/592

AFGHANISTAN

CEMENT PLANT PRODUCTION INCREASES

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 18 Jul 85 p 2

[Text]

Pulikhomri is one of the industrial centres of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. There are big industrial and productive institutions in this city. The Ghorī Cement Plant, which produced, in the first three months of the current Afghan year (begun March 21, 1985), over 31,000 tons of cement, i.e., 13 per cent more than its production plan, is among such productive institutions.

The Ghorī Cement Plant supplies annually constructional materials such as cement and gypsum to hundreds of constructional projects of the country. This plant is located on Poza area, Wazir Abad Ghorī region of Pulikhomri district, Baghlan Province. The daily production of the plant is 400 tons, therefore, taking into account 300 working days, the total production of the plant

would reach to 120,000 tons.

Although 24 years have elapsed since the beginning of the production of the plant, but its machines, though depreciated, have been maintained active by the skillful and creative workers of the plant. The workers, making utmost use of their machines, produce maximum output, and thus, meet the requirements of the constructional institutions of the country.

The revolutionary state of the DRA has planned recently the building of the new cement factory of Ghorī with the daily production capacity of 1,000 tons with the technical and economic assistance of the friendly country of Czechoslovakia. The constructional work of the plant would be started in the second quarter of the current Afghan year. The new plant will be built on an area adjacent to the present plant.

With the commissioning of this plant, the annual production capacity of the Ghorī Cement Plant will reach to half a million tons.

Lime, silica sand, alumina, iron oxide, gypsum and other substances are the raw materials of the Ghorī Cement Plant. The mine of lime, which is the most essential substance in the cement composition, is located only 300 metres away from the Factory. This mine has over 40 million tons of reserve. Other aforementioned substances also exist beside the Plant, which is considered as the main factor for increasing the production output of the Factory.

The collective of the Plant, in addition to its daily production activities, work even at nights for accelerating the process of transport and loading. This plant takes part in work competition launched among the industrial institutions throughout the country, and received the honorary flag in the

second quarter of the last Afghan year (ended March 20, 1985).

The plant has 750 workers and employees in its payroll. To welcome the 20th founding anniversary of the PDPA, the workers and employees of the Plant established their self-defence group in January 1985. The heroic workers of the Plant operate the gigantic machines of production by the one hand, and holding weapons in the other, and thus take part in ensuring the security of the Plant.

In order to raise the production level and to improve the living standard of workers, a collective contract was concluded this year between the management and the council of representatives of the trade unions of the Plant. According to the contract workers have been provided with necessary facilities such as the transport for workers from and to their residential areas before and at the end of official working hours, preparation of seasonal work uniforms for the workers, free treatment of workers in the health clinic of the plant and so on. The workers live in the blocks of workers' township having all modern facilities and equipped with water and power supply and drainage systems. A school, a kindergarten, a mosque and a club, which can accommodate 500 persons, have been constructed in the workers' township.

The creative workers of the plant, with their special attention and skill, have made and used in repairing spare parts such as shafts, fans and tens of other big and small spares, which had previously been imported from abroad. They have also taken an active part in repairing the cement transport means, installing the 6,000-Volt electronic motors and so on, and thus made a revenue of millions of Afghanis for their institution. The unprecedented activities of the workers of this Plant have never been neglected by the party and the revolutionary state. For instance, four workers and employees of the Plant have received the medals of 'Devotion' of the DRA state and the letters of appreciation of the PDPA CC and the Central Council of the Trade Unions of the DRA.

Likewise, in order to render more assistance to the Plant's workers, a number of workers and their children have been sent to recreational centres inside and outside the country.

A section of safety technics was established in the Plant for preventing accidents and for controlling the working site. Protective means have been distributed to those workers, who work on areas having gas.

Engineer, Sayed Most-

afa Sayedi, General Manager of the Ghor Cement Plant, who himself also received a medal of 'Devotion' due to his meritorious services, in an interview to a reporter of our daily, said: "Right now, not only the production plan for the first quarter has been overfulfilled but we have a reserve of 35,000 tons of cement for distribution. The production of the plant is sold to state and private sectors through the main office in Pulikhomri. Moreover, in order to meet the needs of Kabul citizens, the production of the Plant is sold through six sales outlets in Kabul.

"In addition to cement, the Plant also produces gypsum powder in order to render further services to the compatriots. This constructional material had previously been made unprocessed by the private sector and sold to our compatriots at high prices. But, now the plant sales seven kgs of this substance 100 Afis cheaper than the market price.

"The plant was built with an initial capital of 295 million Afghanis in 1958, and continued its production activities having a circulated capital of Afis 300 million. The cement produced by this Factory is the Portland (400-450) type and of high quality."

BANGLADESH

INFORMATION MINISTER REMARKS ON ELECTION PLANS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 20 Jul 85 p 1

[Text] Information Minister Mr Sirajul Hossain Khan on Friday reiterated the government's plan to resume political activities and to hold general elections in next winter, and urged all who loved democracy to create a congenial political atmosphere with mutual understanding.

He said that the Government of President H.M. Ershad would not compromise the question of independence and sovereignty; would not withdraw from the commitment to democracy despite all obstacles that might come; and make tireless efforts to establish the fundamental rights of the people.

Addressing a reception accorded to him by Ganotantrik Party, of which he is the Chairman, at the Shishu Academy auditorium Mr Khan said transition to a constitutional and representative government through free and fair general elections was the political programme of the present Government.

Labour and Industrial Welfare Minister Mr Anisul Islam Mahmud and elderly politician Haji Mohammad Danesh were present as guests at the reception presided over by Gonotantrik Party leader Mr Anwar Zahid.

The Minister said: Gonotantrik Party by remaining in the opposition had organised the people under the banner of democracy, national independence and sovereignty during the past regimes despite many an oppression.

The Minister accused the leaders of the two major opposition alliances of foiling the victories of the 5-point movement earned through blood and said they would have to be answerable to the people for this.

The basic point of the 5-point demand was the restoration of democracy through parliamentary elections, but two positive offers from the Government to hold such polls were rejected by the major parties, he said cautioning that the game of waging movements and foiling its victories was good neither for any party nor for the nation as a whole.

He said that the Government would hold elections in keeping with democratic norms. The people would not accept the creation of obstacles to it he said citing the example of the last upazila polls.

Mr Khan said his party looked forward to the establishment of the people's demand for democracy, and the safeguarding of independence and sovereignty. Under no circumstances the forces of imperialism, expansionism and hegemonism would be allowed to set their roots into the soil of Bangladesh, he declared.

In his residential address Mr Anwar Zahid, who is also the Executive Editor of the BANGLADESH TIMES, said unity of the patriotic and democratic forces in the country was the need of the hour to face the crises facing the nation.

He said that the very existence of the nation was at stake as the South Talpatti island was under foreign occupation; barbed wire fences were being erected along the border; and waters of international rivers being used to pressurise Bangladesh to submit to outside controls.

Mr Anwar Zahid said, the only way to safeguard independence was to unite all patriotic people through the recognition of democratic rights. But, he said, forces opposed to democracy resisted such rights through various strategies at various times and cited the example of information of one party BKSAL in the name of social progress.

He called for strengthening the democratic institutions for securing the democratic rights of the people and political stability--a sine qua non for economic development.

Mr Anwar Zahid said, the proposed 'Jatiya Front' was being formed to achieve unity of patriotic and democratic forces for transition to democracy, to safeguard independence and sovereignty and to ensure progress.

He cautioned that forces both within and outside were active to undo the very existence of Bangladesh. A neighbouring country did not want Bangladesh to develop as a strong, happy and prosperous nation and was out to destabilise it he said adding the destabilisation process had become acute after the assassination of President Ziaur Rahman.

The reception was rounded off with a cultural function.

CSO: 4600/1820

BANGLADESH

REPORTAGE ON FOREIGN MINISTER'S SAUDI VISIT

Jiddah Press Conference

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Jul 85 pp 1, 10

[Text] Jeddah, 16 Jul--Bangladesh Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury wound up a three-day visit, his first to Saudi Arabia since his elevation to the post recently, and told a Press conference his discussions with Saudi Government were very fruitful, reports BSS.

The talks showed complete identity of views on the issues reviewed the Foreign Minister said pointing out that Bangladesh continued to receive full support from the kingdom which had contributed about one billion dollars over the last years towards the country's development.

The Foreign Minister, who had detailed talks with Foreign Minister Saud Al-Faisal and also called on King Fahd, took the opportunity to meet with OIC Secretary General Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada for a review of major Islamic issues.

He said he had renewed President Hossain Mohammad Ershad's invitation to King Fahd to visit Bangladesh and the visit will take place at a time to be settled mutually through consultations. Meanwhile, Saudi Second Deputy Premier and Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan will be touring Bangladesh during the first half of December next.

He said he had conveyed to Saudi monarch a special message of thanks from President Ershad.

Mr Chowdhury reiterated Bangladesh's unequivocal support to Palestinian rights and its stand for complete withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab territories including holy Jerusalem.

Talking of Iran-Iraq conflict, the Foreign Minister whose country is on the Islamic peace committee repeated the call for a speedy end to the fratricidal conflict which he said promoted the interests only of the enemies of the Muslim world.

He was hopeful that forthcoming talks of the Islamic peace panel in Jeddah in September would lead to progress towards finding an honourable and just settlement.

According to Mr Chowdhury both the combatants wanted peace but the differences on modalities of bringing peace prevented headway so far.

He said he had briefed Saudi Foreign Minister about the talks he had recently with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister in Dhaka and said Prince Saud on his part had apprised him of the discussions he had during his visit to Teheran some months ago.

Remarks to Dhaka Press

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 18 Jul 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury said in Dhaka yesterday that the 'field of cooperation' between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia would be expanded, reports BSS.

Talking to newsmen at the Zia International Airport, on his return from a visit to Saudi Arabia, Mr Chowdhury said King Fahd had assured him that his country would always be ready to help Bangladesh and support all its efforts for the betterment of the people.

He said he handed over a letter to the King from President and CMLA Lt Gen H.M. Ershad appreciating 'the spontaneous help he extended for the victims of the recent cyclone. The letter also contained a request for continued fraternal ties, he told a questioner.

Mr Chowdhury described the discussions on bilateral cooperation he had with King Fahd, Deputy Prime Minister Prince Sultan bin-Abdul Aziz and Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal as reiteration of friendship between the two countries.

The discussions, he said also covered regional and international issues reflecting "a lot of similarity of views".

"I got the King's assurance of continuing friendship and cooperation of Saudi Arabia to Bangladesh," he said.

Replying to a question he said that Saudi Arabia would continue to help Bangladesh with its commodity aid and that there was no problem, no misunderstanding in this regard.

The foreign minister said that the King assured him of Saudi participation in building a bridge on the River Jamuna and said his country would not lag behind any country in helping Bangladesh setting up the bridge.

Mr Chowdhury said the Saudi monarch accepted an invitation to pay a visit to Bangladesh the date for which would be fixed through the diplomatic channels.

Deputy Prime Minister Sultan would pay a four-day visit to Bangladesh in the second fortnight of December, he said.

BANGLADESH

DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE LEADER FAVORS NATIONAL FRONT

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 15 Jul 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Chief of Democratic League and Chairman of Jatiya Okya Front Khondakar Moshtaque Ahmed said Sunday night that his party would welcome the formation of any political front which will accept his four-point programme.

Talking to ENA the Democratic League chief said his four-point programme included inter alia anti-aggression anti-hegemonistic posture restoration of a representative government upholding the ideology of the majority people and adherence to democratic norms.

Asked if he was going to send his nominees to the proposed pro-government front, he said he will prefer realisation of the principles enunciated by him.

He however, hastened to add the country is passing through a period of restlessness and he assured that he would strike for the country's return to normalcy.

Asked how it could be achieved, Khandakar Moshtaque said installation of a representative government is the only panacea for all the ills that have plagued the nation. He said immediate holding of national level election would help resolve the problems facing the country.

CSO: 4600/1817

BANGLADESH

PAPER DETAILS VISIT OF ALGERIAN SPECIAL ENVOY

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 14 Jul 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] The visiting Algerian President's Special Envoy, Mr Mohamad Ben Ahmed Abdel Ghani, called on President H.M. Ershad at Bangabhaban on Saturday.

Former Prime Minister and new member of the eight-member Politbureau of Algeria, Mr Abdel Ghani, during the meeting with President Ershad discussed ways to further intensify the bilateral relations and possibility of establishing joint commission between the two countries.

A Bangabhaban spokesman later told BSS that the Algerian Trade Minister was expected to pay a visit to Bangladesh shortly to follow up the matter.

The spokesman said international situation, particularly those affecting the Islamic Ummah, also came up during the discussions.

Mr Abdel Ghani who came in Dhaka on Friday leading a three-member delegation conveys a verbal message to President Ershad from the Algerian President Chedli Benjedid.

Foreign Secretary Farooq Ahmed Chowdhury and Algerian Ambassador to Bangladesh Mohamed Larbi Damaghla Prous were present on the occasion.

Leaves for Rangoon

Later in the afternoon Mr Abdel Ghani left Dhaka for Rangoon saying he was totally satisfied with his mission.

Talking to BSS at the Zia International Airport Mr Ghani said that during his 24-hour stay in Dhaka he had discussions with President H.M. Ershad on "some regional and international issues of mutual interests."

"I have carried out my mission", Mr Ghani said adding, "I take with me the full comprehension of the Bangladesh authorities on the regional issues of South Asia, Middle East and North Africa about which both Algeria and Bangladesh are interested."

"I am quite satisfied," the special envoy said.

He said that he had also discussed bilateral issues with the Foreign Office officials. Replying to a question Mr Ghani hinted that it was possible to expand bilateral cooperation in trade, manpower, technology and cultural exchanges and in the fields of development of natural gas and petroleum.

Asked whether his country which had played a vital role in bringing about the Algiers agreement between Iran and Iraq in 1975 resolving outstanding disputes between the two Islamic countries would take a fresh peace initiative, the Special Envoy said his country was trying its best like many other countries to end the war.

The Special Envoy visited Islamabad before his arrival in Dhaka.

Law and Justice Minister A.K. M. Nurul Islam, senior Foreign Office officials, Algerian Ambassador M.L. Damaghla Prous and Burmese Ambassador Thein Han saw him off at the airport.

CSO: 4600/1816

BANGLADESH

CORRESPONDENT WRITES ON PATRIOT CANAL PROPOSAL

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Jul 85 pp 1, 10

[Article by Abdur Rahim]

[Text] An influential English daily THE PATRIOT published from New Delhi has strongly advocated for construction of a canal through Bangladesh to link the Brahmaputra with the Ganges above Farakka with a view to augmenting water flow to meet the increasing water requirements of India and sharing a portion with Bangladesh.

India has been harping on the same old proposal that has already been rejected by Bangladesh a number of times. THE PATRIOT considers the stand of the Bangladesh Government on sharing of the Ganges water as totally "unrealistic". So the paper feels that the next Ministerial level Joint River Commission meeting scheduled to be held in Delhi sometime this month would equally be "unfruitful like the 28th JRC meeting if Bangladesh sticks to the same stand it has been following in the past.

Commenting editorially the paper endorsed the link canal proposal of India and said that the Indian Government is agreeable to bear a part of the cost of the construction of the proposed canal. The link canal proposal is "most feasible and profitable solution the paper observed.

No Government in Bangladesh will ever agree to such a proposal of India knowing fully well that acceptance of such a proposal will bring along with it economic; social and political disaster to the country.

THE PATRIOT alleged that Bangladesh has been manoeuvring all along to enlarge the scope of this problem in order to internationalise an essentially bilateral issue. The paper took serious exception to the Bangladesh's move to involve Nepal in the water sharing by way of building reservoirs in Nepal in the upstream of the Ganges and its tributaries in Nepal so that during the January-May lean period the flow of the Ganges to Bangladesh could be regulated from that country without an "alleged Indian interference. The paper emphatically said that the Dhaka authorities knew that India would never agree to internationalising an issue which had to be settled only at the bilateral level.

It may be recalled that the Ganges water sharing agreement was signed for the longest period of five years after the issue was taken to the United Nations in 1977.

Meanwhile the Indian refusal to include Nepal in finding a solution the Ganges water sharing problems is not easily comprehensible. India itself has undertaken joint schemes with Nepal for construction of reservoirs in the tiny Himalayan kingdom for storage of water to the benefit of the two countries only. If India could discuss the Ganges water issue with Nepal bilaterally what wrong was there in the Bangladesh proposal for inclusion of Nepal in a tripartite talks on the sharing of the waters of the Ganges which is by all means an international river. Bangladesh being a lower riparian country can not be denied of its right over the natural flow of the Ganges. The Government of Nepal is on record saying that it had no objection to join in a tripartite talks on the water sharing issue if both India and Bangladesh agree on the point.

Meanwhile THE PATRIOT predicts that the scheduled 29th JRC meeting to be held in Delhi sometime this month would have the same fate like that of the 28th meeting held in Dhaka early last month.

One and a half months have already passed since the last Ministerial level JRC meeting was held. The meeting was held. The meeting which was described as inconclusive was held after a lapse of six months due to India's reluctance to meet earlier. The earlier meeting held in Delhi in December 1984 ended without any results. Meanwhile the temporary water sharing agreement for 18 months expired on May 31, 1984. At the moment there is no agreement on the water sharing between the two countries.

According to the last agreement called Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) Bangladesh had to agree to receive 34000 cusecs of water--10,000 cusecs less than that was agreed upon in 1974.

In the absence of an accord Bangladesh is faced with the twin problems--floods during the monsoon and drought in the lean period. Bangladesh has always been trying to have an amicable and negotiated settlement of the water issue for the purpose of having a good neighbourly relations with India its immediate neighbour.

Curiously enough, THE PATRIOT has discovered the existence of persons in Bangladesh who are keen to inject an adversary stance in the relations between the two countries. In this respect, the paper has not missed the opportunity to remind the friendly gesture shown by the Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by visiting the cyclone battered Urir Char.

Meanwhile the West Bengal Government has come out with a new demand for the whole quantum 55,000 cusecs of water--40,000 for flushing the Hoogly river and 15,000 for irrigation purposes during the lean period.

The Indian Government has nearing completion of yet another big barrage at Gajaldoba in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal to regulate the waters of the

river Teesta, India is going ahead with many other water storage projects by regulating the flow of the common rivers running through both the countries.

Quoting sources close to the Indian delegation attending the 28th JRC meeting another Delhi-based English daily THE HINDUSTAN TIMES said: India had been more than responsible during the talks but the Bangladesh side apparently encouraged by the sentiments expressed by Mr Gandhi and President Ershad tried to drive a hard bargain.

CSO: 4600/1818

BANGLADESH

BNP REPORTED AGAINST REACTIVATING ALLIANCE

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 18 Jul 85 pp 1, 8

[Article by Hasanuzzaman Khan]

[Text] The Bangladesh Nationalist Party is not in favour of reactivating the seven-party alliance already plagued by the defections, according to party insiders. The party created to legitimise the transformation of a soldier-turned dictator into a president, ironically was the only one from among the seven in the alliance to adhere to its commitments to democratise the movement.

Begum Khaleda Zia has opined that the alliance platform was used by some of its components to further parochial and personal interest as manifested in many of the alliance leaders joining the government. These personages and their parties failed to show signs that they realised the contrariness of belonging to the movement and at the same time joined the fold of those against whom the movement was being developed. It was patent betrayal, so feels Chairman of the BNP.

The party insiders say, even a section of BNP hard-core were allured by the defectionists to join their camp. The Shah Aziz faction, UPP and Ganatantrik Party formed an unholy alliance within the seven-party combine and finally executed their desertion by switching over allegiance to a so-far non-starter front.

The yet-to-come-off front has already found its component in UPP, Janodal, Ganatantrik Party and is expecting to further grow through the jumping of the Shah Aziz faction, Muslim League (both the groups) and a segment of Democratic Leaguers on to the bandwagon.

The pro government front evidently has taken shape and the announcement of its steering committee is now a matter of time. According to our source, last-minute deliberations were being held with regard to the selection of steering committee members.

Meanwhile a process of new polarisation seemed to be developing in the political arena of the country. According to a source Oli Ahad, Senior Vice-President of Democratic League was maintaining close liaison with Khaleda Zia since he is unhappy with Khandaker Mushtaque's hobnobbing with the proposed

pro-government front. He is reported to have expressed strong resentment in an informal party meeting over a move engineered by Mia Abdur Rahid, the party general secretary, aimed at joining the new front. Signs of dissension in the Democratic League was unmistakable.

Shafiul Alam Pradhan of Jatiya Gantantrik Party met Khaleda Zia recently and expressed his desire to work alongside with her party. Garib Nawaz and Shamsul Arefin of UPP and Abdul Khaleq of NAP Bhasani and Amena Begum of Jatiya League expressed the same desire to Khaleda Zia through Shafiul Alam Pradhan, it is reliably learnt.

Addressing an informal gathering at the residence of Barrister Nazmul Huda at Dhanmandi last night Begum Khaleda Zia again waved an olive branch to Shah Aziz and his followers. Their door to the BNP mainstream was still open and they could come back as soon as they realised their own fault. There was no last word in politics and nothing was beyond redemption, she said. Khaleda Zia was talking to the district leaders of BNP who came from Chittagong district last night. She asserted their party has emerged stronger in the wake of the recent happenings in the country.

The leaders from the different districts continued to throng her to get the bearings of the party as also of the whole of national politics. According to a report Rahimuddin Bharasa, a former MP of Rangpur, earlier considered to be a Shah Aziz loyalist has expressed unequivocal support to Khaleda Zia. On Tuesday Azizul Haq and Wazed Hussain Tarafdar of Bogra also met Khaleda Zia at a residence at Banani and expressed their loyalty to her leadership.

CSO: 4600/1818

BANGLADESH

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PANEL MEETS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Jul 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The National Committee for Industrial Development headed by President Hussain Muhammad Ershad had its first meeting on Saturday exchanging views with the sectoral agencies and private sector entrepreneurs for infusing faster pace of industrial growth in the country, reports BSS.

The meeting held at Banga-bhaban with the President in the chair has set up a committee to sanction joint venture projects and projects having investment of Taka 15 crore and above.

Lasting over two hours the meeting held free and frank exchange of views and opinions and ways to remove the bottlenecks on way to industrial sanctioning capacity performance of the existing industries and progressive attainment of technology for shifting to production of basic goods.

The meeting also set up committees on jute textiles Industrial Policy and Export Processing Zone which will study the respective sectoral performance and submit its recommendations to the National Committee.

The National Committee for Industrial Development was set up by the President soon after his return from a visit to Republic of Korea and Japan. It included concerned ministers, officials and representatives of the private sectors to review the progress of industrialisation in-

dustrial Policy and to sanction major and joint venture projects at the highest level.

The National Committee will meet once a month and will take decisions to help accelerate industrial growth in the country.

Speaking on the occasion President Ershad described the government and the entrepreneurs as partners in progress and said the prime objective of the new Industrial Policy of the government was to play a supporting and complementary role instead of a regulating role in the country's industrialisation process.

He discouraged the trend of opting for assembly line indus-

tries in the country and said, 'We do not want to make the country a market for foreign goods. What we really want is transfer of technology and production of industrial items bearing local brand name.'

Help to private investors assured

The President assured the private sector investors of all possible assistance from the state level and said, at the same time they should make efforts to build up a solid foundation of industrial development with the setting up of more industries in the country. In this context, he thought that there was a necessity of rationalising the traditional sanctioning procedures so

as to do away with any impediment on way to setting up of industries.

President Ershad urged all concerned to see that the sectoral capacity was being utilised properly ensuring optimal use of available machinery capacity.

The representatives of chambers and private sector thanked the President for taking up the question of industrial growth at the highest level with the setting up of the National Committee. This would provide both the sides with the opportunities to exchange views on any problem in the country's Industrial Sector. They pointed out and observed that such approach at the highest level bore credence to the giving of much importance towards industrial promotion.

They underlined the need for a crash programme for industrial growth which would on the one hand justify the national economy and at the same time create opportunities for more employment.

The meeting was attended by the DCMLA and Minister for Industry, Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud, Foreign Minister, Ministers Planning Energy and Mineral Resources, Commerce, Jute and Textiles, Finance Adviser, Governor of Bangladesh Bank, Presidents of different chambers of commerce and industries, leading industrialists and entrepreneurs, some editors of national dailies and concerned officials.

BANGLADESH

REGIONAL CONFERENCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 19 Jul 85 pp 1, 10

[Text]

The National Coordination Committee for the SARC summit at its first meeting with President Hussain Muhammad Ershad in the chair on Thursday set up eight subcommittees for smooth conduct of the summit to be held in Dhaka on December 7 and 8 this year.

The meeting held at Bangobhaban decided that the venue of the summit will be the new Sangsad Bhaban at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

Official sources told BSS that the meeting also approved the

Dhaka SARC summit emblem.

Out of the eight subcommittees set up on Thursday six will be headed by Cabinet Ministers while the remaining two will be chaired, by the Principal Staff Officer to the CMLA and the education Secretary. The subcommittees will organise the physical and organisational facilities for smooth holding of the summit.

The national committee will frame policy give guidance to the subcommittees and coordinate their works.

The sources said that the summit will be preceded by a meeting of the Foreign Secretaries of the SARC countries on December 4 and of the Foreign Ministers in December 5.

The seven nation South Asian Regional Cooperation (SARC) mooted by Bangladesh will be formally launched in the first summit in Dhaka.

The launching of SARC will in effect set a motion in the process of confidence building and cooperation among the countries of the South Asia the sources said adding besides it will have a historical significance to the region as a whole.

The seven South Asian countries grouped in the SARC are Bangladesh India Pakistan Nepal Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

A total of 180 delegates from six countries are expected to come to Dhaka to join the summit. In addition, a large number of other functionaries and media people will be in Dhaka in connection with the summit.

The opening and concluding sessions of the summit will be held ceremonially. The concluding session will be marked by signing of the Charter of the SARC cancellation of commemorative postal stamps issued by the member countries and

a Press conference.

According to sources the some of heads of state and of the Government of SARC countries are expected to be accompanied by their wives and there will be separate ladies programme for them.

In connection with the holding of the summit cultural troupes from member countries will present stage performances from November 30. The programmes on the concluding day evening will be marked by SARC cultural night. The cultural programmes will be held at the Osmany Memorial Hall (Civic centre). Besides there will be handicrafts exhibition on the occasion at the civic centre gallery.

During the SARC summit, the heads of Government and state are expected to go on retreat to the panoramic countryside.

There will also be a state banquet hosted by President Ershad in honour of the guests.

The DCMLA and Minister for Industries, Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud and other members of the National Committee were present at the meeting.

Meanwhile a SARC cell has been opened at the Ministry of Foreign Office in connection with the summit.

BANGLADESH

CORRESPONDENTS DISCUSS PROSPECTS OF TRADE WITH PRC

'Remarkable Increase' Expected

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 21 Jul 85 pp 1, 8

[Article by Monowar Hossain]

[Text]

Bilateral trade between Bangladesh and China under barter system and in convertible currencies is expected to register a remarkable increase in the near future.

The recent visit of President Ershad to the People's Republic of China and the fruitful talks between Bangladesh President and the leaders of China on further expansion of the two-way trade volume have roused the expectation among the trade circles.

During the talks on bilateral relations the Chinese leaders assured President Ershad of expanding and diversifying the existing trade between the two countries. The trade circles here consider it to be a positive indication to increase of export both in terms of volume and item under barter system and in convertible currencies to China.

Concerned circles have expressed optimism that an increased rate of purchase of Bangladeshi commodities under barter deal and in cash payment by China as a measure to expand bilateral trade will not only eventually narrow down the existing wide gap but will also develop a sound base of trade relations between the two friendly countries.

For last four years Bangladesh has become an import

surplus country in overall trade (barter, cash, and other arrangements) with China with average annual surplus of 74 million dollars. Before that the situation was reverse.

About a year after the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries

a trade and payment agreement was signed in Beijing in January, 1977. Prior to conclusion of the agreement trade with China took place in convertible currencies only.

Replacing the trade and payment agreement a five-year term trade agreement was signed in Dhaka in March, 1980. In December, 1984 another five-year term trade agreement was signed with China. Besides barter, the trade agreement provided for trade in convertible currencies.

Under the trade and payment (TPA) and the long-term trade agreements eight protocols were signed. Three barter protocols were concluded under the TPA and the rest under the long-term trade agreement. Bangladesh was the export surplus country under the first three barter protocols.

Barter Protocol No 4 provided each way trade of 31 million dollars. The actual exports and imports were 28.7 million dollars and 27.8 million dollars respectively. The fifth protocol provided each way trade of 37 million dollars. But actual export was 25.5 million dollars and import 24.7 million

dollar. The sixth Protocol provided each way trade of 30 million dollars but actual exports and imports were 19.6 million dollar and 15 million dollar respectively. The seventh barter protocol provided each way exchange of commodities worth 31 million dollars. In this protocol diesel oil and lubricating base oil were included as important items of import from China and in a very short time Bangladesh became import surplus on account of import of these items.

The eighth barter protocol was signed in December, 1984 for a period of one year under the long-term trade agreement also signed on the same date. This protocols provided each way exchange of commodities worth 32 million dollars.

The long-term trade agreement with China also provided for trade in convertible currencies. During 1979-80 to 1983-84 Bangladesh imported goods worth more than 306 million dollars from China on cash payment and under the WES. During the same period Bangladesh's export to China on cash payment basis amounted to only a little over one million dollars.

It has been estimated that around one-fifth of the total trade with China was under barter while the rest were in convertible currency. Bangladesh has been an import surplus country in trade under non-barter arrangement with China.

Enthusiasm in Beijing

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 Jul 85 pp 1, 10

[Article by Reazuddin Ahmed]

[Text] With the opening of Chinese economy to outside world the scope of Bangladesh-China cooperation in the industrial and commercial fields has widened. Different corporations in China evinced keen interest to participate in joint venture industrial projects in Bangladesh with the spirit of model South-South cooperation.

During my recent visit to China I talked to China Complete Machinery Export Corporation management Zuhai Special Economic Zones Authorities, Wuhan Municipal Authorities and White Cloud Agricultural and Industrial Complex Authorities about the possibility of setting up industries in Bangladesh with Chinese cooperation. All of them showed interest in joint venture projects and suggested close contact between the public sector corporations and industrialists of Bangladesh and their counterparts in China to negotiate specific proposals. The two countries can set up industries for consumer goods textiles, light machinery fertilizer power projects and agricultural appliances.

During the recent visit of President Lt. Gen H.M. Ershad China signed an agreement of 100 million yuan assistance for construction of the friendship bridge on the river Buriganga and for financing small industrial projects in Bangladesh during the Third Five-Year Plan. The Chinese leaders also assured President Ershad to simplify procedures for joint venture projects in Bangladesh extending special concessions.

Bridge on Buriganga

The 50 million yuan out of 100m yuan assistance will be spent for construction of the Buriganga bridge and the remaining amount will be invested in small and medium industrial projects.

The two-kilometre long bridge over the river Buriganga will be financed by China and the bridge will be a symbol of friendship between the two countries. The bridge will connect the bustling metropolis with the southern bank of the river widening the scope of expansion of the city.

The Chinese engineers and architects have completed the designs which will be handed over to our engineers for scrutiny next month. An expert team from Bangladesh will visit China in October to discuss the details of the designs with the Chinese experts.

I talked to the engineers and experts of the China Complete Machinery Export Corporation in Beijing about the progress of the designs and their plan to start construction of the bridge. Mr Chen Shijie, Chief of Asian Division of the corporation informed me that if everything goes well the construction work will start from August next year. Three years time will be required to complete the bridge which is expected to be opened to traffic in August 1989.

According to the design the bridge will be 920 metres long with 90 metres navigation clearance. The approach roads on both sides will be 1041 metres long. With the approach roads the total length of the bridge will be 1961 metres. The net width of the bridge will be 17.6 metres with a 14 metres wide road and footpaths on both sides measuring 1.8 metres.

Under the protocol signed in 1983 China will provide machinery experts, and will pay for the construction materials and labourers. The construction materials will be locally procured and labourers will also be engaged from Bangladesh. But all the experts will be from China. Bangladesh Government will provide land, transport and accommodation for Chinese experts.

The Chinese experts are maintaining the time schedule for completing the preliminary works. The Road and Highways Department should be also serious in maintaining the time schedule so that the bridge can be constructed in time. Any dislocation in finalising the preliminaries will delay the project.

The Chinese experts said they want to build the bridge on time and with their best expertise as the bridge will be a symbol of friendship between the two friendly countries. The China Complete Machinery Export Corporation has the record of constructing such bridges in different countries and in China also.

In the commercial fields the volume of trade can be increased. Bangladesh can offer some non-traditional items to China like mushrooms. The Chinese leaders enquired whether Bangladesh cultivate mushrooms. They said if you can give us good mushrooms it will get a good market here.

A potential market of one billion people has been opened to the outside world and many countries are taking advantage of this. Bangladesh should find out commodities which can be sold to Chinese markets.

CSO: 4600/1822

BANGLADESH

MINISTER EXPLAINS JUTE POLICY FOR 1985-1986

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Jul 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] The Jute Policy for 1985-86 announced on Monday provides new arrangements mainly by the Government agencies for building buffer stock of raw jute to provide 'reasonable prices' to the growers in the event of any excess supplies in the main jute season, beginning from next month.

The Government agencies including Bangladesh Jute Corporation (BJC) and Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) will immediately start their purchase operations on an extensive scale throughout the country including the border-belt zones. The private traders and the private mill owners (controlling about 35 per cent of total loom capacity in the country's jute industry sector) will also be activated in jute purchase operations both in primary (growers) and secondary (hats and bazars) markets. Adequate financing arrangements from the Bangladesh Bank through the nationalised commercial banks for the jute sector have been made.

No minimum statutory price has been fixed for the purchase of raw jute by the Government agencies. Free market mechanism will be allowed to operate in the jute sector. Efforts will be made by the Government agencies to help maintain the jute price at the growers' level above the costs of production. The production costs have been estimated by the Ministry of Agriculture at Taka 267 per maund during the current season.

Explaining the salient features of the new Jute Policy, Mr M.A. Sattar, Minister for Jute and Textiles told newsmen at a Press conference on the day at the head office of BJMC felt that the free-market operations would not deprive the growers of 'fair returns' as the Government as well as the private sector was aware of the needs for ensuring reasonable prices to the jute growers. Such reasonable prices he maintained are a must for restoring 'stability' and 'confidence' in the market both domestic and international, in the longrun interests of jute fibre. He stated that the arrangements for building buffer stock of raw jute would provide the safety-valve for maintenance of reasonable price stability to protect the interests of both the growers and the end users in the event of any excess supply during the current season. There will be no dearth of funds for that, he added. He noted that the Government agencies would continue to maintain their purchase operations throughout the year and there would be no quantitative restrictions on their operations. If necessary

additional funds will be given to them he added. When asked to comment on the prevailing prices of raw jute both in the primary and secondary markets the Minister observed that the real jute season had not started yet. What has been coming to the market are early varieties of raw jute he added, while noting that bulk raw jute in main growing areas was still in the field.

Among others Jute Secretary K.M. Rabbani the Chief Executives of BJMC and BJC and the top-functionaries of Bangladesh Jute Mills Association (BJMA) and Bangladesh Jute Association (BJA) were present in the Press conference.

Replying to a question the Minister said that the ruling price of raw jute at Indian Rupees 295 per quintal (about Bangladesh Taka 225 per maund) in neighbouring Indian jute-growing areas was lower than the prices now prevailing in Bangladesh. He however noted that the jute economy in Bangladesh was placed in a different setting compared to the case in India. About 75 percent of raw jute produced in India are needed for meeting India's total domestic requirements making thus only the rest 25 per cent available for India's exports of jute he added. In Bangladesh he stated domestic requirements can at best absorb only 10 per cent of raw jute and jute goods produced in the country and about 90 per cent of the total production require to be exported.

Monitoring Jute Arrivals, Prices to Continue

The Minister said that the Government would continue to monitor the raw jute arrivals and the related price trends in the market throughout the year to adopt appropriate moves as and when necessary to ensure "reasonable returns" to the jute growers and to maintain "fair amount of stability" in the international jute market. He felt that if the raw jute price were maintained at an average level of Taka 300 per maund the interests of the growers as well as the international buyers would be protected in 1985-86.

When giving an account of production prospects during the current season Mr Sattar pointed out that the most up-to-date assessment by the Ministry of Agriculture put the production performance at 60.38 lakh bales in 1985-86. With carried-over stock of eight lakh bales from the last season the total availability of raw jute in 1985-86 will stand at 68.38 lakh bales, he estimated. He said that the requirements of raw jute by the domestic jute and spinning mills in 1985-86 would be around 35 lakh. Exports of raw jute during the year would involve 21 lakh tons. About four lakh bales of raw jute would be needed for handicrafts and other domestic uses leaving a year-end stock of 8.38 lakh bales in June '86, he added.

About the buffer stock he stated that if the actual arrivals of raw jute would exceed the currently-estimated level the need for building buffer-stock would arise.

The Chairman BJMC told newsmen that the Corporation would have 165 purchasing centres in 1985-86 for buying raw jute for meeting the needs of its 36 mills. The BJMC's purchase centres would include 55 in the border-belt areas, he added.

The Chairman BJC said that the Corporation would have 17 purchasing centres including 62 in the border-belt zones and it intended to open more soon.

Mr Mohsin Ali of Bangladesh Jute Mills Association said that the private sector jute mills numbering a total of 34 and having operational ownership and control over 35 per cent of total looms available in the country's overall jute industry had opened 50 centres mostly at the primary growers' markets in 1985-86. More centres by the private jute mills may be opened if necessary, he added.

Explaining the jute policy for the current year the Jute and Textiles Minister said that the Government sector agencies had already been instructed to start soon their purchase operations on full-scale. The private traders and mills have also been requested to do so and such traders and mills have assured the Ministry of their fullest cooperation for the implementation of the jute policy he added.

TK 765 cr Credit Financing Arranged

About the credit financing operations for the entire jute sector in 1985-86 Mr Sattar said that the new financing programme arranged after elaborate discussions with Bangladesh Bank would involve Taka 765 crore. This amount will include Taka 285 crore for BJMC Taka 165 crore for private sector jute mills. Taka 60 crore for jute spinning industries. Taka 135 crore for private jute traders and Taka 126 crore for BJC.

Giving an account about the net availability of credit funds for the jute sector in 1985-86, the Jute Secretary stated that the net availability might be higher than the new financing arrangements made no. This will be higher because the credit needs for the jute traders are likely to double than what has been provided under the credit arrangement owing to normal turn-over factor.

The Jute Secretary stated that outstanding credits in the jute sector had been kept aside while working out the new credit financing needs for the sector in 1985-86. He added that a sum of Taka ten crore had been provided for under the new credit programme for the jute sector to facilitate the jute growers cooperative associations to buy jute directly in the primary markets in 1985-86.

About the renewal of jute licencing to those shippers who had wilfully defaulted in fulfilling their contractual obligations to the foreign buyers last year the Jute Secretary said that the performance of the concerned jute shippers was now under review and consideration by the Directorate of Jute and a decision would be taken before July 31, '85.

Meanwhile the Jute Minister when asked about the indicative minimum price of raw jute and jute goods exports in 1985-86 said that the existing practices about export prices would continue during the year and the prices would be reviewed on a regular basis by the concerned committee. He pointed out that export sales of raw jute were being maintained now at \$75 U.S. dollar per bale.

INDIA

RAJIV INTERVIEW WITH U.S. QUARTERLY REPORTED

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 20 Jul 85 p 4

[Text]

New York, July 19 (UPI): The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that in India "the real problem is the massive corruption at the bottom." As for at the top, "there are very few people at this level who are involved in this sort of thing," he told the American quarterly, *Chief Executive*.

He was asked during an interview how he proposed to overcome the problem of corruption, about which most businessmen in India have complained. Mr Gandhi replied, "Corruption is a very major problem and we have taken quite a few steps to curb it...it can be looked at from two perspectives.

"One is the very large amounts of money at the top. I can honestly say there are very few people at this level who are involved in this sort of thing. We know who they are and we will sort that out fairly soon.

"The real problem is the massive corruption at the bottom where there are millions of people spread out through the villages, which makes it harder to control," he said.

The magazine, circulated among top business managers, focussed on Mr Gandhi's efforts to liberalise India's economy and develop its high technology, though it touched on political issues too.

About the difficulty of getting things done through the country's 14-million-person bureaucracy, he said, "The bureaucracy is a much maligned—well, I should not say—monster.

"It has its problems and we are fully aware of them. But you

must see the plus side. Our system has been a true functioning democracy for almost 40 years of independence. It has survived a number of major traumas...and much of the credit—not all of it—must go to the bureaucracy because of its steadying factor."

Liberalisation

Asked whether Indian firms will be able to compete with foreign firms drawn to India by his liberalisation, Mr Gandhi answered, "Well, they must."

He said, "You know, our biggest problem in relaxing these rules and regulations came not from politicians or the public but from the firms themselves, especially the bigger firms.

"They had a vested interest in continuing the system. They had a captive market—one of the biggest markets in the world. The capacity of this market is much more than is visible.

"For example, during three or four months in 1982 we made it duty-free to import colour television sets. I was told that television sets from Tokyo to San Francisco just were not available.

"Eventually we were buying them up. We opened up the television market there and there is a tremendous demand for colour television sets. We just cannot buy them. We have to wait two years before we can get what we want.

"When we wanted to set up 140 television transmitters in a year nobody in the world could supply them. We had to get three or four Indian companies to manufacture them. That is the sort of capability we have got."

Indo-US trade

Commenting on Indo-US trade, Mr Gandhi said trade between the two countries has increased the most in those years in which their political relationship has been the most turbulent.

Reminded that Indo-US ties under Mrs Indira Gandhi had often been very stormy and asked what kind of relations he wanted with Washington, Mr Gandhi replied, "We want understanding."

Indians think more

The Prime Minister said, "I worked in factories in England during my college days and I have seen our people here in India

"Our people think much more: they get going much quicker," he said. Citing the many advantages India offers to foreign investors, Mr Gandhi said, "It has political stability and its policies do not change dramatically. We do not do turnabouts and suddenly become vicious in a particular direction."

INDIA

PAPER GIVES DETAILS OF GANDHI 'BLITZ' INTERVIEW

Comment on Neighbors, Recent Tour

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 Jul 85 p 16

[Text]

BOMBAY, July 17 (PTI):

THE Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, believes that the U.S. could prevent Pakistan from making a nuclear bomb even at this late stage with economic pressures.

In an interview to the Bombay-based weekly, "Blitz," he said the threat of Pakistan becoming nuclear, is a "very serious development", not only for us, but for the whole world. The world must address itself to it and decide whether they are going to have it or not.

To a question if his government would push India into a nuclear race in the military sense, despite his reluctance to do so, as already a section of the political and technical intelligentsia is demanding a bomb, Mr. Gandhi said "we have to wait till it comes to the crunch".

"But I am very much against having a bomb. I don't think the bomb will serve any purpose. At the same time, we have to look after our national security and that cannot be compromised", the prime minister asserted.

He said he had discussed the prospects of Islamabad acquiring nuclear capability with the Soviet Communist Party chief, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachov and they (the Soviets) were also not happy about this development.

Replying to a question if he had found any change in the U.S. perception with regard to the militarisation of the Indian Ocean, he said there was a lot of difference between what India and the U.S. thought and this was not going to be bridged easily.

On the Afghan problem, Mr. Gandhi said that India would certainly do anything she could to help. But right now, the U.N. initiative was doing well, though initially it was floundering, he said.

Regarding the response of the Reagan administration to the new inter-

national economic order and concessional finance to developing countries, Mr. Gandhi said the U.S. government had agreed to discuss the tariffs as well as the new economic order.

Talks have not yet started, but once they get underway, it would be possible to "know how deep we are in it", he added.

The prime minister said the U.S. would like an amicable solution to these issues, instead of a confrontation.

France was positive on the new economic order and the question of tariffs, the prime minister said, adding that there was a growing feeling in the world that what India has been talking about for some time now cannot be dismissed as "nonsense", but it requires discussion.

To a question on India's relations with South Asian countries, the prime minister said the foreign secretary, Mr. Romesh Bhandari's visit to the six neighbouring countries had helped greatly. The recent talks between Tamil militants and representatives of the Sri Lankan government in the Bhutanese capital, Thimpu, was also the result of the growing trust and confidence among the countries of the regions.

With Pakistan, however, there are known difficulties, but the meeting of the Indo-Pak joint commission, established following the Simla pact, had showed "useful" though "modest" results.

The prime minister felt that his four-nation tour to France, USA, Egypt and Algeria had created an atmosphere of understanding where "we could work together for the benefit of mankind and the world".

Asked if the thaw in the US-Soviet relations and the proposed Reagan-Gorbachov summit in November were the results of his efforts, he said he hoped his talks with the two leaders had contributed towards that, though he

added that it would be presumptuous to think the meeting was set up because of it.

To a question how he compared the "personal rapport", shared between him and Mr. Reagan and that which existed between Mrs. Indira Gandhi and the American president after her visit to the U.S. in 1982, he said he did not know what transpired in 1982, but his talks with Mr. Reagan were very "frank", not in the diplomatic sense but in the gentlemanly sense.

Asked to explain his position on the emergency issue in the wake of the uproar caused in the opposition as well as the press following his remarks during his press conference in Delhi a fortnight back, Mr. Gandhi said it is the ultimate tool in running a government only if all else fails. But it should not be abused or misused, he added.

Struggle Against Terrorism

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 Jul 85 p 16

[Text]

BOMBAY, July 17 (PTI): The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has said that he possessed a video film which exposes everything on the training camp for terrorists in the U.S.

In an interview to the Bombay-based weekly, "Blitz", Mr. Gandhi said the film showed how training is imparted to terrorists in a camp. "It also records a very revealing interview with Camper", he added.

It is "incredible" that there are schools and camps for terrorism in America running with the blessings of the Reagan administration, he said.

Mr. Gandhi was hopeful that now that it had come out in the open, such provocations will stop.

"We nevertheless feel that there is something that they could tell us, which they are withholding about the training camps, about the information they have, etc. When I brought this up with them, they were very categorical

that they would help us with all the information", Mr. Gandhi said.

The Prime Minister agreed that isolating terrorists from their patrons abroad would help in easing the Punjab problem. Already there is much improvement in Punjab and the situation has defused, he said.

But the more we defuse the situation here, the sharper is the reaction abroad, Mr. Gandhi said, adding that it would take time to completely wipe out terrorism.

Asked if he had heard anything from America after the Air-India Boeing, "Kanishkha" crash, the Prime Minister said he had contacted the U.S. government about it and they had agreed to tighten security measures.

Even Canada has taken a tough stance on the question of terrorists after the accident and it is "for us to watch how long this will last".

CSO: 4600/1801

INDIA

INDIA, FRG SIGN DUAL TAXATION AGREEMENT

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 11 Jul 85 p 6

[Text]

New Delhi, July 10 (UNI): The Union finance minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh and the West German foreign minister, Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher today exchanged instruments of ratification of a protocol amending the agreement for the avoidance of double taxation of income between India and West Germany.

The protocol amending the agreement between the two governments was signed on June 28, 1984 in Bonn, according to an official release.

After the protocol comes into force, the taxes covered will include wealth tax in the case of India. Further, while computing business profits, head office expenses will be subject to the limits provided under section 444C of the Income-Tax Act.

It provides that the activities relating to construction, installation or assembly projects would constitute a permanent establishment only if such activities exist in the other state for a period of more than six months.

The protocol provides for complete exemption in respect of shipping profits in the country of source after a period of 10 years and, in the mean time, the tax in the country of source will be halved in the first five years and reduced by 75 per cent in the next five years.

In respect of dividends from new investments, the rate of tax will not exceed 15 per cent in respect of dividends paid by Indian companies. It has also been provided that the dividends derived by residents of India from FRG will be taxed at the rate of 15 per cent in that country.

Regarding interest, it has been agreed that the rate of taxation in the country of source will not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount if the interest is paid on a bank, and 15 per cent of the gross amount in other cases.

Fees for technical services will be taxable at 20 per cent of the gross amount irrespective of whether the services have been rendered in West Germany or India.

CSO: 4600/1792

INDIA

FRG FOREIGN MINISTER HOLDS DELHI PRESS CONFERENCE

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 11 Jul 85 p 16

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 10. — The West German Vice-Chancellor and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Hans Dietrich Genscher, said here today that the West German Government would not allow its territory to be used for anti-India propaganda by extremists.

Mr Genscher said West Germany would arrest those extremists of Indian origin against whom international warrants of arrest had been issued if they entered his country.

The West German Foreign Minister, who was addressing a Press conference after a two-day visit to India, cautioned against overreacting to the problem of political asylum. He said during the past 15 years, his Government had received 20,000 applications from Indian citizens for asylum and only 20 had been granted their request. West Germany believed in the right to provide asylum but this did not mean that those allowed to stay in the country could carry on their political fight from German soil.

He said he found India, like West Germany, keen to contain

international terrorism through mutual cooperation and hoped that the stringent anti-hijacking proposals forwarded by West Germany would find favour with more countries.

Mr Genscher said a high-level industrial delegation from West Germany was expected to visit India in November which, he hoped, would open up possibilities of joint ventures in India.

He said that he was impressed by India's progress and saw India on the threshold of a technological and industrial leap.

We welcomed India's liberalized trade policy which, he thought, would be advantageous not only to India but also to her trade partners.

The West German Minister said his Government welcomed the forthcoming talks between President Reagan and the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachov. He said East-West relations, which was among the subjects discussed with Indian leaders, did not mean merely relations between the USA and the Soviet Union.

CSO: 4600/1792

INDIA

PRESS REPORTS ISSUES TO OCCUPY MONSOON PARLIAMENT

Opposition, Other Plans

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 22 Jul 85 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 21 (PTI).

THE left parties, which are likely to get the backing of other opposition groups, will urge the government in the monsoon session of Parliament beginning on Tuesday, to take a further initiative to arrive at a negotiated settlement of the Punjab tangle.

A meeting of the left parties co-ordination committee in Parliament today urged the government to take the opposition into confidence on moves to resolve the Punjab crisis.

The ruling party's offer to have a national consensus on the reservation issue will be another highlight of the month-long session. The left parties feel that the "uneasy truce" reported from Gujarat could not be a substitute for a national consensus on the reservation issue.

They, as well as other parties, will press for a discussion on the continued violence in Gujarat.

NUCLEAR BOMB

The Telugu Desam, the main opposition, will raise mostly regional issues during the monsoon session.

An important issue, expected to figure prominently in both the houses, is the report that Pakistan is on the verge of producing a nuclear bomb. The opposition will demand a clear-cut stand by the government on the issue and the steps India proposes to take to counter the threat arising out of Pakistan's nuclear potential.

The executive and the general body of the CPP are meeting tomorrow to deliberate various issues expected to come up before Parliament. The customary meeting of the general body on the eve of the session will be addressed by the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi.

The Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr. N. T. Rama Rao, who had con-

vened a meeting of his party MPs in Hyderabad last week, listed as many as 33 issues to be raised in Parliament. They included the Telugu Ganga project, increase in Central assistance and plea for taking up the Manuguru super-thermal power station in the current plan.

The government has reiterated its policy on the reservation issue. While it proposes to continue the reservations for scheduled caste and scheduled tribes, it would like to evolve a national consensus on providing reservation to backward classes and other communities.

The Prime Minister may convene a meeting of the opposition leaders to discuss the question.

The other issues to be raised in both the houses include, the crash of Air-India's "Kanishka", and the latest developments in Sri Lanka in the light of the talks in Thimpu.

The Lok Sabha will discuss and vote the supplementary demands for grants (railways) and the supplementary demands for grants (general) for 1985-86 in addition to the demands for grants of Punjab.

A total of 22 new bills are scheduled to be introduced during the monsoon session. The new legislations include the Delhi rent control (amendment) bill, the estate duty (amendment) bill, taxation laws (amendment) bill, the intelligence organisations (restriction of rights) bill and the employment of children (amendment) bill.

The proposed sick industrial undertakings bill aims at establishing a board for industrial and financial reconstruction of sick units.

The left parties will demand a statement and discussion in both the houses on the Prime minister's statement on

the emergency.

A CPM press release said the left parties would "expose the misuse of All India Radio and TV as crude propaganda instruments of the ruling party."

The meeting said although an inquiry was in progress to find out the cause of Air-India's "Kanishka" crash, this should not "preclude" members from discussing the wider political context relating to international terrorism, the need for tightening up security regulations and the shocking revelations of the Camper training school for terrorists at Alabama in the U.S.

JPRS-NEA-85-114
6 September 1985

More Details Given

Madras THE HINDU in English 22 Jul 85 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 21.

The monsoon session of Parliament beginning on Tuesday is expected to plunge into its primary business — making laws — on the very first day itself when the State Financial Corporations (Amendment) Bill is slated to come up in the Lok Sabha.

A spate of legislative measures are due to be dealt with by the two Houses during the session, which is due to end on August 23. In addition Parliament will also vote the budget demands for the State of Punjab, now under President's rule, for 1985-86.

Among the 22 pieces of legislation which until now have been notified for introduction, consideration and passing is the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Bill to control illicit traffic in drugs and to enhance the punishment or penalties.

Inland Waterway Authority: The long-awaited Inland Waterway Authority of India Bill, 1985, is also due to be considered. This will enable the Government to set up a new agency to maintain and operate the river systems which are declared as national waterways. So far stretches of the Ganga, down stream of Allahabad have been declared as a national waterway.

The Dock Workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Bill is intended to bring about further improvements in the working conditions of those working in the country's 10 major ports.

The Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill is intended to revise the wage ceiling and to bring it on par with the wage ceiling prescribed in the other labour laws.

The Coffee (Amendment) Bill to increase the ceiling rates of customs and excise duties on coffee, and the Light House (Amendment) Bill

to augment the financial resources to maintain and develop navigational aids along the Indian coastline to keep pace with the growth of shipping traffic are among the other measures due to be taken up in the coming session.

KVIC Bill: Parliament will also consider the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (Amendment) Bill to facilitate better financial management of the Commission.

It will take up measures to amend the Government Savings Bank Bill and the Government Savings Certificate Bill to raise the existing limit of amounts for settling claims without succession certificates.

The Estate Duty (Amendment) Bill to give effect to the Government's decision to abolish the duty hitherto payable on the estate of a deceased person will also come up in this session.

Also, the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill to reform tax laws, the Intelligence Organisations (Registration of Rights) Bill and the Delegated Legislation Provisions (Amendment) Bill to modify certain acts to implement the recommendations on the committee of subordinate legislation regarding the publication and laying of the rules and other delegated legislation will be dealt with by the two Houses.

Other items of legislation slated for discussion include the Delhi Rent Control (Amendment) Bill to enable ex-servicemen, widows and dependents of deceased service personnel to regain the possession of their rented residential premises.

The Railway Protection Force (Amendment) Bill is intended to improve the operational efficiency of the Railway protection personnel and make them effective in discharging their responsibility.

INDIA

PAPERS REPORT MUSLIM SPLIT WITH KERALA LEFT

Pull Out of LDF

Madras THE HINDU in English 21 Jul 85 p 1

[Text]

CALICUT, July 20.

The All India Muslim League has pulled out of the Marxist-led opposition Left Democratic Front. A recommendation to this effect made by the State working committee of the AIML last night was ratified today by the State council of the party, thus ending an 11-year-old relationship between the AIML and the CPI (M) in State politics.

The AIML, which has a strength of four, will sit in the Assembly as a separate bloc and adopt a 'creative approach' to Government policies and actions. Mr. Bava Haji, State president, Syed Ummer Baffakki Thangal and Mr. P. M. Aboobacker, MLA and party leader, told newsmen after the State council meeting. The LDF's strength in the Assembly has gone down now from 84 to 80.

No plans to join UDF: Mr. Aboobacker said in reply to a question that his party had no plans at present to join the ruling United Democratic Front led by the Congress (I). There was no change now in the AIML's attitude towards the party either.

The resolution of the State council of the party said: "The AIML had seen the communist-led Left Front for the last 11 years as a set-up that opposed imperialist and communal forces and worked for the welfare of all sections of the people. The AIML had forged such a relationship in spite of the fundamental and ideological differences between communism and Islam with a view to protecting the interests of the Muslim minorities. In this, the AIML had been led by the marxist claims of being a progressive and secular movement.

Attitude has changed: "However, the CPI (M) has now deviated from its line and failed to distinguish between organised struggles for rights of minorities and communalism of the majority. Clear evidence of this change in attitude can be found in that party's attacks on the Shariat.

"As far as the AIML is concerned, it is for maintaining communal harmony in the full meaning and scope of the term and the party is against communalism.

The resolution charged that while opposing the Muslim Leagues and the Shariat, the CPI (M) had failed to observe the elementary decency expected of one partner of a front towards another constituent. The AIML had decided to leave in the larger interests of the Muslim community and the fundamental ideologies of the party, the resolution added.

Mr. Aboobacker said there was no reaction from other front constituents when the party raised the

issue of the attack in the liaison committee of the Left Front. The Shariat was a fundamental issue on which there could be no compromise.

Unity call hailed: The State council, also adopted a resolution 'heartily welcoming' the call for unity of the League parties by the Indian Union Muslim League.

Mr. Aboobacker said unity talks would be started at the earliest. The party president had been authorised to hold talks with the IUML on this score. Fifty out of 80 members were present at the working committee meeting, and today's State council meeting was attended by 162 of its 180 members.

The AIML's decision climaxes a period of sharp exchanges between the party and the CPI (M) over the observance of Shariat Protection Day.

Even at the time of elections to the Lok Sabha in December, the AIML had done some sabre-rattling over the question of seat allocation and sent signals that it would walk out if it did not get a seat that gave it a reasonable chance of winning. Then, the marxists as well as the other constituents of the front made placatory gestures, avoiding a showdown.

CPI (M) stand: The AIML's decision will in no way make the CPI (M) change its policy and stand on the Shariat law, the party secretary, Mr. V. S. Achuthanandan, said in a statement.

The AIML, he said, was toying the line of the IUML to say that the Muslim men should have the freedom to marry and divorce as they wished, unmindful of the fate of the Muslim sisters, who were thrown into the streets. This practice was opposed to justice and humanitarian approach. The CPI (M) would not deviate from this stand, he added.

Our Trivandrum Special Correspondent writes:

Gain for ruling front: The exit of the AIML from the LDF has come as a boon to the ruling front, but it is too early to say whether its strength in the Assembly will go up immediately.

The party position now in the 141-member House, with one vacancy and excluding the Speaker, is: ruling UDF: 74 (Congress-I 31, Kerala Congress 15, IUML 14, NDP four, SRP three, DJP two, RSP, PSP, Janata (G) one each and Independents two).

LDF: 80 (CPI-M 30, CPI 12, Congress (S) eight, RSP four, Janata party four, Independent two). The AIML has four seats.

CM welcomes merger move: The Kerala Chief Minister, Mr. K. Karunakaran, has welcomed the move for unity between the two League parties.

Effects of Decision

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 22 Jul 85 p 9

[Text] TRIVANDRUM, July 21--THE decision of the state council of the All-India Muslim League (AIML) to quit the Marxist-led left democratic front will considerably strengthen the ruling alliance headed by the Congress.

Though the four-member AIML group will for the time being sit as an independent bloc in the assembly, the party's merger with the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) is only a question of time. Indications are that the two leagues, brought together by the Marxists' all-out campaign for changes in the "Shariat" (muslim personal law), will merge next month.

The united league, with a strength of 18, will replace the 15-member Kerala Congress as the second largest partner in the united democratic front (UDF).

With the reunification, the UDF strength will go up to 79, excluding the speaker, whereas the left front will be left with only 60 members. (One seat is lying vacant following the death of Mr. S. Panaveli, who represented the Ranni constituency).

With a fairly comfortable majority in the assembly, the ruling coalition will no longer be as vulnerable as it was earlier to the pressure tactics of small parties, like the National Democratic Party and the Socialist Republican party.

At the same time, the Congress cannot be particularly happy about the enhanced political clout of the united league, especially in the Malabar region.

By the next elections, it may become a far more powerful party, which cannot be ignored by either the Congress or the Marxists. The goal of a "single-party" rule, cherished by Youth Congress leaders, is likely to become even more distant.

Incidentally, it is only in Kerala that the Congress has been having an alliance with the Muslim League. The two parties have been opposing each other in elections in other states.

With the merger of the Joseph and Mani factions, the Kerala Congress has already emerged as a force to be reckoned with in the central Travancore region.

Both these dominant partners can be expected to stake their claim for more seats in the next poll.

As for the Marxists, they seem to have relegated electoral considerations to the background in their bid to build up a broad-based left democratic movement. There is no sign of any regret in their camp at the AIML's exit, which was only the logical culmination of their onslaught on the "Shariat."

Inhuman Laws

They have charged the AIML as well as the IUML with not only advocating continuance of outmoded practices which subject divorced women and their children to "inhuman" treatment, but also with seeking to wreck national solidarity in the name of religious unity. They have reiterated their determination to oppose such steps with the same vigour with which they have been assailing the RSS and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad.

Whatever the explanation, the fact remains that they are relieved at the AIML's departure. Freed from the "stigma" of a tie-up with a "communal" party, they think they will be able to intensify their campaign against "minority communalism" which they consider as dangerous as "majority communalism."

The Marxists had apparently been feeling for some time, especially after the Lok Sabha poll, that the alliance with the AIML had become a liability.

As for the AIML leaders, they are bitter about the manner in which they were virtually forced to quit the left front by the Marxists with whom they joined hands in 1984. According to them, the change in the Marxists' attitude to them represents a shift in their policy.

But the political line pursued by the AIML in the past is unlikely to hamper alignment of the united league with the Congress-led alliance. As one party leader pointed out, the attitude of even the CPM general secretary, Mr. E. M. S. Namboodiripad, to the Rajiv Gandhi regime is different from that he had adopted towards Mrs. Indira Gandhi government.

The recent statement by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi that the government has no plan to amend the "Shariat" should also help pave the way for the united party's entry into the UDF.

Cochin (UNI): Any party, including the AIML, will be accommodated in the ruling united democratic front if the UDF partners agreed to it, the Kerala chief minister, Mr. K. Karunakaran, said here on Sunday.

Talking to newsmen, he said it was the declared policy of the UDF that all "democratic" forces in the state should be brought under its banner.

CPI-M Leader Defends Stand

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 23 Jul 85 p 1

[Text]

New Delhi, July 22: The CPI(M) general secretary, Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad, today asserted that his party did not differentiate between majority and minority communalism and was determined to fight against both.

On the controversy over the recent Supreme Court judgment giving maintenance rights to

Muslim women, Mr Namboodiripad said the CPI(M) drew a distinction between the democratic demands of the minority community and the "fundamentalism-obscurantism."

In a hard-hitting statement, Mr Namboodiripad took strong objection to the all-India Muslim League's allegation that the

CPI(M) had deviated from its earlier line and "failed to distinguish between organised struggles for the rights of minorities and communalism of the majority."

The CPI(M) general secretary made it clear that his party fully supported the constitutional provision for a uniform civil code. Admitting that sections of the Muslim community were not yet ready for this, Mr Nambudiripad said the CPI(M) extended support to those who advocated "progressive changes."

CSO: 4600/1808

INDIA

CONGRESS-S LEADERS' CAMP ISSUES STATEMENT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 15 Jul 85 p 5

[Text] **Nagpur, July 14 (PTI)** — The two-day camp of national leaders of the Congress-S concluded here today with the party leadership declaring in unequivocal terms that the party would maintain its identity.

A political statement released by party president Sharad Pawar said this was the appropriate time to solve the Punjab problem and to reach an amicable solution across the table.

Government should take the initiative to hold negotiations and solve the problem, preferably before 6 October this year when the presidential rule in the State ends and its further continuation would call an amendment to the Constitution, Mr Pawar told reporters.

The 11-page political statement dealt with wide ranging issues including the party's resolve not to go in for the "frustrating exercise" of alliances but to seek cooperation of opposition parties in highlighting issues of national interest.

The draft, finalised by the camp, also specified areas where it said the Congress-S should cooperate with the ruling party in order "to preserve the unity and integrity of the nation, which was in danger".

Mr Pawar said his party would celebrate the Congress centenary as a national celebration and not as the party's celebration. The party had decided to invite all those who were associated with the freedom struggle and who believed in the Congress culture of the pre-independence era for the centenary celebrations.

The political statement finalised programmes of agitations on socio-economic and political issues and directed its units to hold demonstrations to attract the attention of the authorities.

The camp was attended by 214 of the par-

ty's top brass from all over the country.

The categorical declaration by Sant Harchand Singh Longowal that the unity of the nation was paramount and emphasising the Hindu-Sikh unity was one of the positive developments to improve the Punjab situation the statement said.

The statement also welcomed Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's recent conciliatory gesture towards the Akalis. It noted that the principled efforts of the Congress-S had succeeded in bringing about a silver lining in the otherwise dark cloud on the nation's horizon.

On Assam, the statement noted that the process of normalisation should begin by allowing people there to elect a Government of their choice. Such a Government could alone implement the terms of any settlement since popular trust and confidence are necessary elements in the reconciliation and reintegration of minds, it said.

Expressing concern on the prospect of a caste conflagration on the issue of reservation, the statement said it was necessary to inquire into the real cause of backwardness so that proper steps might be taken to remove it.

The Congress-S, it said, feels that there is no need to revise the stand on reservation as reservation of jobs or seats in educational institutions are some of the necessary steps that might help the backward castes to come up in terms of status and opportunity.

The party, however, would like to record the strongest possible objection to the manner in which the Government handled the situation in Gujarat. Mr Madhavsingh Solanki was allowed to follow a policy that alternated between needless confrontation and equally uncalled for surrender, which now threatens the peaceful state of Gujarat with prospects of endless turbulence, the statement said.

INDIA

CENTRAL ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE BUREAU ESTABLISHED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 Jul 85 p 1

[Text] The Government has set up a Central Economic Intelligence Bureau to spearhead its concerted attack on black money, smuggling, foreign exchange manipulations and other economic offences.

The bureau will be headed by a director general on the pattern of other Central enforcement and intelligence agencies. It will coordinate with the CBI, Customs and Excise, Income Tax and various other agencies at home and abroad for concerted action.

The bureau is expected to take final shape within this week. The Union Cabinet cleared the proposal at its presmonsoon session meeting on Monday. The Cabinet at the same time also cleared several other proposals to strengthen the Customs and Excise, the Narcotics Department and their enforcement wings.

The Government had decided to set up the bureau when it took up in March and April this year an exercise to see how best it could combat the multiple menace of smuggling and foreign exchange manipulations on the one hand, and stop the large amount of clandestine money inflows from having a serious effect on the economy and business.

It was found that often the evasions and violations of revenue laws were closely interconnected and detection and prosecution were difficult for want of well-collated information.

Serious gaps were also detected in the existing revenue intelligence department and the intelligence units of the Central agencies.

Finance Minister V P Singh said a fortnight ago that the Central Intelligence Bureau could wait no longer if the Government were to deal effectively with economic offences and mop up over Rs 3,000 crore in evaded taxes and duties. This would more than meet the budget deficit and would invigorate the economy.

According to sources, the bureau will adopt the most scientific methods of intelligence gathering and collation of data, fast and tamper-proof data links, a central computer system to continuously monitor and process the

information in-flow. This system will be linked with the computerised information system that is already in the process of being installed in the Central Excise and Customs Collectorates and regional offices.

The areas covered by the bureau will be wide. It is expected to collaborate with the CBI and Interpol to gather information on smuggling, specially of narcotics and gold. It will work with other mechanisms now under study to probe bank frauds almost before it is too late and the culprit has made off with the money for good. It will also be on call to the LIC and general insurance companies to help detect and prevent insurance frauds.

Its impact is expected to be wider in a cascade effect, Finance Ministry sources are hopeful. Together with the recent raids that have shaken up the underworld of black money, the Government hopes to have given serious effect to its electoral promise of combating economic offences.

CSO: 4600/1814

INDIA

PROCEEDINGS OF BJP NATIONAL EXECUTIVE REPORTED

Memorandum on Center-State Relations

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Jul 85 p 1

[Text] BHOPAL, July 19--The Bharatiya Janata Party began its three-day National Executive session by laying stress on the unity and integrity of the nation--a platform that it lost to the Congress (I) and it did so in its very first act while approving a memorandum to be submitted to the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State relations.

The draft declares that the unity and integrity of the country is indestructible and the main plank on which the democratic polity of the nation rests is unity.

The memorandum said that the Constitution is quasi-federal in its content, but unity and integrity are its basic feature and this cannot be destroyed by anybody or any section of people.

The memorandum did not refer to the developments in Punjab, but Dr Murli Manohar Joshi, who was in the drafting committee headed by Mr K. S. Hegde, said: "We totally reject the view that only four subjects--that is, defence, foreign relations, currency and communications should be with the Centre and all the remaining subjects should be given over to the State".

At one stage, the memorandum even called for the scrapping of Article 370 that gives a certain amount of autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir and said: "Article 370 being of transitory nature, should be deleted in the interest of national integration."

Dr Joshi declared: "We want a strong India. Relations between the Centre and States should be dynamic and cooperative. The States should also be strong because the strength of the States is the strength of the Centre".

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 22 Jul 85 p 9

[Text] BHOPAL, July 21--The Bharatiya Janata Party basically accepted the recommendations of the Mandal Commission, declaring that reservations should be made for other backward classes. Its national executive, in a session here, said in a resolution, "while giving the benefits of reservation, preference, on the basis of poverty, should be given among these very classes". As poverty is a factor of backwardness, some reservation should also be provided for members of the other castes on the basis of their economic condition, the resolution added.

Explaining the resolution, Mr Shanti Bhushan, former Law Minister, and Mr Suraj Bhan, former M.P., said, in the view of the BJP, all the poor and the deprived sections should be accommodated while reservation was granted and "all of them should be accommodated within the 49% of the quota fixed by the Supreme Court".

The resolution also said that the implementation of reservation in services through the roster and carry-forward system, particularly at the stage of promotion, during the past 38 years had resulted in a deep resentment amongst both Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and other communities. It was, therefore, imperative that a national consensus be evolved on this matter, the resolution added.

It wanted reservation on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to be continued as before. Mr Bhushan stressed the urgency of arriving at a national consensus on the issue as speedily as possible because the social tensions in different States should not be allowed to continue.

The national executive finally approved the memorandum to be placed before the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State relations, saying "the manner in which the Centre's authority to issue licenses acted as an impediment in the way of industrial growth in the States needs to be remedied".

The national executive also favoured the creation of a legislative assembly in New Delhi. In a resolution on the economic situation, it deprecated talk of high technology, "as if all the manna of heaven will fall on us if we adopt high technology". Mr Mahavir who piloted the resolution in the executive meetings said the introduction of high technology would mean the import of massive foreign capital and know-how which were inconsistent, with India's policy of self-reliance, and where industry and agriculture were still based on 19th-century technology.

The resolution said: "The BJP is of the considered view that if the country is to adopt the high technology that Mr Rajiv Gandhi is talking of, it would result in an endless dependance on foreign loans and know-how, and the stranglehold of multi-nationals. So we have to evolve an appropriate and intermediate technology in the state of development we are." The resolution also deprecated the keenness to promote collaborations with Italians, sometimes even at the cost of indigenous technology. "Surprisingly, it has suddenly discovered Italy to be a source of defence technology also".

The resolution said the problem calling for most immediate attention was the perpetual torture of ever-rising prices.

It was said to be surprising that a Government should expect people to put faith in verbose claims of the "lowest inflation rate during the last seven years" and not see the hard facts of the market-place. Taking a few articles of common use, the price of sugar had increased from the pre-budget level of Rs 5.50 to Rs 8 a kg, gram pulse from Rs 6 to Rs 7.50, rajma from Rs 6 to Rs 12 and washing soap from Rs 9 to Rs 10. Vegetables, spices and cloth had risen by more than 10% to 20% during this period.

The price of cement in the open market had risen from Rs 60 to Rs 80 a bag. Equally relevant was that much of the price-spiral was traceable directly or indirectly, to the Government and its policies, including a virtual collusion with big business multinationals and foreign suppliers.

The executive regretted that no effective measures were being adopted by the Government to check the endless price-rise.

Final Resolution Reported

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 23 Jul 85 p 1

[Text] BHOPAL, July 22 (PTI)--THE Bharatiya Janata Party has said that terrorism in Punjab had acquired menacing proportions not because of inadequacies of laws but because of the policies of "opportunism, drift and inaction of the government for years."

The party alleged that the leaders of the ruling party had "close links" with terrorists and this had complicated the situation. It wanted a probe into "the Punjab Congress nexus with extremists and terrorists."

The BJP national executive, in a resolution adopted at the end of its three-day meeting here last night, held the Akalis guilty of rank opportunism and lack of courage against the terrorists.

Call for Talks

The party president, Mr. A. B. Vajpayee, who released the resolution to the press today said both the government and the Akali leaders should resume a dialogue for resolving the Punjab issue "without setting any preconditions."

The resolution said the Congress, in its Lok Sabha election campaign, had promised speedy solution to the Punjab problem but even after six months since the present government came to power, a solution to the problem is nowhere in sight.

Mr. Vajpayee said his party would not boycott elections in Punjab (whenever they are held) and expected other parties to do likewise.

On the Gujarat situation, the resolution said: "The communal and casteist twist given deliberately to it due to dissensions in the ruling party and the growing criminality of police with connivance of the ruling party were responsible for this state of affairs."

Party Feuds

It said the internal feuds in the Congress had contributed to the aggravation of the situation. When the press and opposition parties exposed this, the government turned its wrath on them. As a result, the state which was till 1984, one of the best administered states, became engulfed in violence and lawlessness, the resolution added.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi had acted in a "partisan and short-sighted manner, chose the policy of drift and allowed incalculable damage to be done to peace, stability, economy and social harmony in Gujarat", the resolution alleged.

Speaking at a meet-the-press programme, Mr. Vajpayee appealed to the Prime Minister not to create a scare in the country by constantly harping on the subject of Pakistan's nuclear capability, but take positive steps to protect India's interest.

The government had "diplomatically" failed to prevent Pakistan from its preparation for a nuclear bomb, he said and demanded that it should consult the opposition on the issue.

In reply to a question, Mr. Vajpayee said there should be a definite demarcation between the organisation and the government. He admitted that his party had failed to achieve tangible results in the last Lok Sabha elections.

He announced that he would not contest the presidentship of the party. He would also not contest the Churu Lok Sabha by-election.

Changes in Ideology

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 23 Jul 85 p 10

[Text] BHOPAL, July 22--Basic changes in the ideology and creed of the Bharatiya Janata Party which will bring these in line with the philosophy of its original theoretician, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, will be finally brought about at the forthcoming national executive meeting to be held in Gujarat in September, it was announced yesterday at the conclusion of the three-day session being held here.

The session deliberated the report submitted to the president Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, but put off its final adoption till the large number of activists at the district and State levels were taken into confidence on the shape and form the party was going to take.

During the deliberations of the executive, the report received a large measure of support and senior leaders welcomed the changes they thought were necessary to sharpen the image of the party.

Mr Krishanlal Sharma, convener of the working group which has suggested the changes, said at a Press conference at the conclusion of the session that there was going to be no change in the name of the party, but with the other changes coming the party would be revitalized.

The main focus of the change will be its adoption of the "integral humanism" concept of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya as the party's creed. "Gandhian socialism", which the party has sworn by ever since the 1980 elections, will be changed to "international humanism", a part of the philosophy of the erstwhile Jana Sangh's president.

With this alteration, the Bharatiya Janata Party will have changed some of the progressive, ideological stance it acquired as a result of its partnership in the "ajanta" syndrome and association with Jayaprakash Narayan by whom the erstwhile Jana Sangh leaders had obviously been deeply influenced.

It is known that the party's leadership has often been criticized at various levels, even among its own cadres, for discarding the basic Jana Sangh political and economic lines, particularly when it came under severe attack during Janata rule for its "RSS connexion" and even thereafter. Thus, when the party had a setback in the 1980 polls, it was as though its followers had punished the party for its mistakes. There was a debacle in the 1984 elections--by now it was the BJP--and the leadership at its Calcutta session formed a working group and entrusted it with the task of reviewing the party's functioning, its achievements and shortcomings in the past five years and also of drawing up a five-year action plan--ideological, organizational agitational, constructive and electoral.

The 12-member working group of eminent party leaders processed through replies to a five-page questionnaire on these lines that came in the past six months from thousands upon thousands of the party's rank and file. The working group also endorse all the three major decisions made by the party--merger in the Janata Party in 1977, exit from it in 1980 and the formation of the Bharatiya Janata Party. The report states that in the 1980 elections, the party secured 8.6% of the votes and in the 1984 elections, it was down to 7.6%. But for the tremendous amount of popular sympathy shown by the masses after Indira Gandhi's assassination, the working group estimated that the party would have secured at least 15% of the votes in the 1984 elections. It felt this was the real strength the party enjoyed at the moment.

Taking this as the base, the working group considered that the party must aim at another 20% to 25% of the votes.

Besides the concept of "international humanism", which the working group redefined as the "Gandhian approach to the socio-economic system" the working group laid stress on the commitment to "nationalism and national integration". It is known that the BJP has been criticized from inside its own ranks for allowing the national unity and integrity slogan to be taken away by the Congress (I).

The five-point charter of recommendations of the working group was nationalism and national integration, democracy, a Gandhian approach to the socio-economic system, positive secularism and value-based politics. It enjoined on the party to "update" the party documents. The working group declare that integral humanism should be the basic philosophy of the party.

The working group devoted full five closely-typed pages, or one-fifth of the total report, to the international humanism concept of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, which it felt was a total concept in political and economic spheres. Interestingly, the badges that all the leaders wore to the national executive meeting had the portrait of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya on them.

Our Special Representative in New Delhi adds: The BJP will press the Government during the monsoon session of Parliament to go in for its own nuclear deterrent. This was decided at a meeting of the BJP group in Parliament in New Delhi this morning. Mr L. K. Advani presided.

The party took exception to the statement made by the Prime Minister that corruption in India was mainly at the lower levels of the administration. The fact was that "it was corruption at the higher echelons of political leadership which polluted the administration".

CSO: 4600/1812

INDIA

JANATA GENERAL SECRETARY HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 Jul 85 p 5

[Text]

BOMBAY, July 17: The socio-economic problems facing the country, coupled with the government's failure to tackle them, have created a situation which will lead to "total unrest", Mr. George Fernandes, general secretary of Janata party, said here today.

Mr. Fernandes, who was addressing a press conference, announced that his party would organise nation-wide demonstrations on December 28, to synchronise with the Congress centenary celebrations.

The biggest of the demonstrations would be in Bombay, he said, "to spotlight on the betrayal of the farmers by the ruling party."

The Janata leader touched upon a number of national and local issues, on which his party would organise the "nation-wide movement". The recently enacted anti-terrorist law, he said, was no different from Rowlatt Act which Mahatma Gandhi so vigorously opposed, as it involved questions of civil liberties, he said.

Mr. Fernandes said the national council of Janata party, which would meet at Balia in Uttar Pradesh on October 12 and 13, would finalise the plans for the "people's movement" to be launched on wide-ranging issues.

He said that the recent Supreme

Court judgement on slum-dwellers and hawkers, had "hit at the poorest of poor people". He pleaded for a dialogue between the authorities and representatives of the people affected by the judgement.

STC STRIKE

Reiterating that 80,000 workers of the State Transport Corporation would go on an indefinite strike from August 11-12 midnight, Mr. Fernandes hoped that the Janata party would also mobilise people's support for the workers' demands.

Mr. P. K. (Anna) Patil, state Janata president, Mr. Jagannath Jadhav, MLA and Mr. Bhau Phatak, ST workers' leader, were present.

In the municipal corporation, a state of confrontation was developing, as the municipal commissioner, Mr. J. G. Kanga, had not found time to meet the Municipal Mazdoor Union leaders, Mr. Fernandes said, adding that the municipal workers' demands would be submitted to the commissioner tomorrow.

"If there is no settlement of their demands," he said, "a strike in September is inevitable." Mr. Fernandes also released the conclusions arrived on various political and socio-economic issues, at the party's national camp held at Yercaud, near Salem in Tamil Nadu, between June 13 and 19.

CSO: 4600/1802

INDIA

NEW CHIEF JUSTICE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Jul 85 p 1

[Text] Justice Prafullachandra Natwarlal Bhagwati was sworn in as the 17th Chief Justice of India at a brief ceremony at the historical Ashoka Hall in the Rashtrapati Bhawan on Friday morning.

President Zail Singh administered the oath of office to Justice Bhagwati. Among those who attended the ceremony included Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his Cabinet colleagues, Vice President R Venkataraman, outgoing Chief Justice Y V Chandrachud and a galaxy of legal luminaries.

The new Chief Justice drove to the Supreme Court immediately after the ceremony and took the seat of the highest judicial office in the world's biggest democracy.

Born on 21 December, 1921 Justice Bhagwati will have briefest tenure as the Chief Justice with only 18 months left before he retires.

Chief Justice Bhagwati was elevated to the Supreme Court on 17 July, 1973, while he was the acting Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court. He also acted as Governor of Gujarat for about 20 days in December, 1967.

During his 12 years in the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Bhagwati has been an "activist" judge. The concept of controversial public interest litigation was encouraged and made popular by him. Among those who have benefited from this are bonded labourers, victims of police oppression, casual labourers and others suffering from governmental apathy.

In his several judgments, including Menaka Gandhi vs Union of India, the Chief Justice dismissed the old approach to the clause of inequality.

According to him Article 14 of the Constitution has a "highly activist magnitude" and embodies a guarantee against arbitrariness". The new dimension to the Article has resulted in a number of laudable decisions in favour of the common man.

Justice Bhagwati's name is widely regarded as a tireless spokesman for the cause of the underprivileged.

He took part in the country's freedom struggle in 1942 and courted arrest during the Quit India movement. For some time he was in jail and later he went underground for four months as he was wanted by the Raj police.

A postgraduate in Mathematics from the prestigious Elphinstone College, Pune, Justice Bhagwati did Law from the Government College, Bombay.

CSO: 4600/1815

INDIA

EXPERTS' CONCERNS OVER PAKISTAN-PRC COORDINATION

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 19 Jul 85 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, July 18--Pakistan is coordinating its military activities with China in a bid to capture the strategic Siachin Glacier in the Ladakh region, reports UNI. Pakistani and Chinese Air Force jet fighters recently conducted joint reconnaissance missions over the glacier and the Indian Nubra Valley.

Defence experts say Pakistan is trying to occupy advantageous positions in the Siachin Glacier to secure a common border with China to facilitate a closer military link-up in the event of a war with India.

Reports have come in that Pakistan is setting up a special snow warfare force comprising personnel of the Northern Light Infantry and the Special Services Group.

Experts say that the Pakistani attempt to "gain" the Siachin Glacier is also intended to weaken India's position at the border talks with China.

This has been further confirmed by the prestigious Janes Defence Weekly which has in its latest issue said that on May 29, four Pakistan Air Force fighters and two Chinese Air Force jet fighters intruded into the Indian air space and flew over the Siachin Glacier and the Nubra valley on a military photo reconnaissance mission.

Pakistani troops have recently stepped up their activities in the glacier region and Pakistani military intelligence activities around the area have also increased noticeably, experts said.

The Siachin Glacier, the longest in the world and situated at a height of 18,000 feet, is located in the Karakorums, having some of the highest peaks in the world. It is 74 km long and is two km to eight km wide at various places.

Lt.-Gen. M. L. Chibber, GOC-in-C of the Northern Army Command, has warned the officers and men in Jammu that Pakistan was out to create trouble for India.

So far Pakistani planes have violated Indian air space five times in the Siachin Glacier region which is two-third the size of Sikkim.

Defence experts said Pakistan, which started systematic expeditions to the Siachin Glacier area in 1978, is periodically sending its armed troops to capture some peaks.

Experts said to achieve its geo-strategic aims, Pakistan was trying to occupy the area near Karakorum pass which would enable it to dominate the Indian Nubra valley and the routes going down to Leh. Pakistan wants to capture the "Indira Col" which is a wedge between its illegally-occupied parts of Kashmir and the 4,500 km of territory it had illegally ceded to China. With the capture of "Indira Col" Pakistan could establish a common border with China.

Since this area is not demarcated Pakistan is trying to claim it. Pakistan is allowing foreign expeditions in this area as a screen to cover its military plans to push forward. India has made it known that it would not allow this.

CSO: 4600/1803

INDIA

PAKISTAN SAID TO POLITICIZE HIJACKERS' TRIAL

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 11 Jul 85 p 1

[Article by Subhash Chakravarti]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 10.

DISTURBING reports about a well planned move by Pakistan to let the trial of the Indian hijackers, now being conducted in Lahore, degenerate into a political forum have reached the foreign office here.

The sinister plan to exploit the trial for mounting a political campaign against this country became evident when early this week it was more or less confirmed that the Washington-based self-styled Khalistan protagonist, Mr. Ganga Singh Dhillon, would be produced as a witness.

Pakistan authorities who have a big hand in determining the course of the trial both from the prosecution and defence side, seem to have succumbed to the temptation of producing a self-proclaimed India baiter like Mr. Ganga Singh Dhillon as a witness without taking into account its fall-out on the bilateral relations, which for a change are beginning to come out of a quagmire.

The whole idea seem to be to exploit the trial as a last resort to scuttle the encouraging prospects of finding a political solution to the problem in Punjab.

The idea behind the induction of Mr. Ganga Singh Dhillon and perhaps a few more of his ilk from abroad is to give as wide international coverage as possible to the demand for a so-called Khalistan.

According to competent sources here, Pakistan has taken the rather

dubious stand that hijacking of an Indian plane by politically motivated individuals cannot be separated from the political compulsion of their act. This is a clear case for making terrorism and air piracy respectable.

It should be said to Pakistan's credit, however, that there is not much of a surprise in its latest stand. For, as early as a year before, Pakistan's foreign minister, Sahabzada Yakub Khan, while defending his brief to put off the trial had maintained that an open trial would cause a lot of embarrassment to India. The process for launching this embarrassing game can now be said to be on the anvil.

Needless to say, the report about Pakistan's short-sighted move has come as a shock here.

The prosecution and defence, which in this particular trial in Lahore, is an extension of the same establishment, have attempted to make a case that the hijacking was organised at the behest of the government of India to put the blame on the supporters of Khalistan. Repeated questions were put to an air hostess about how the door of the cockpit of the aircraft was left open, allegedly deliberately, to let the hijackers have an easy access to the pilot.

Now there is a second thought here about recognising Pakistan's legal standing to hold the trial, particularly in the context of the latest developments. The hijacking was carried out in Indian air space and the criminals are all Indian nationals.

CSO: 4600/1790

INDIA

TRIPURA COUNCIL ELECTION SAID TO DISAPPOINT CPI-M

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 11 Jul 85 p 7

[Text]

AGARTALA, July 10.

THE results of the election to the tribal areas autonomous district council in Tripura is disappointing for the ruling CPM though its left front has won an absolute majority.

Its majority is only razor-thin as out of a total of 28 elected seats, the left front could win only 15 seats, the remaining 13 seats having been shared by the Congress-Tripura Uphajati Juba Samity alliance. The individual strength of the Congress and the TUJS stands at three and ten seats respectively.

This was the first election under the sixth schedule of the constitution, the provisions of which were made operative in the tribal area of Tripura from April 1 this year after the necessary constitutional amendments were made by Parliament in August last.

Though the sixth schedule was introduced in Tripura in April 1985, only an autonomous district council, elected on the basis of adult suffrage and with more or less the same powers and functions as those of the sixth schedule, was in existence since the beginning of 1982 under a state law.

The autonomous district council,

thus created, ceased to exist only after the sixth schedule came into force.

A comparison of the results of the two elections reveals an unmistakable sign of erosion in the popular support of the CPM and the left front. In the 1982 election, the left front had won a three-fourths majority by bagging 21 of the 28 seats. This time, it has a slender majority of two seats only.

These 15 seats again have been annexed by the CPM alone, the other constituents of the left front having been wiped out wholly. In contrast, the TUJS which had won only seven seats in 1982, has increased its tally to ten this time.

The Congress has entered the autonomous district council for the first time with three seats.

Of the 28 seats of the autonomous district council, 21 are reserved for the scheduled tribes. The fact that all the ten seats won by the TUJS are reserved seats (ST) goes to show that the party is still deeply entrenched among the tribals. Speculations that the TUJS has lost much of its ground among its tribal followers over the last several years have not been borne out by the election results.

CSO: 4600/1790

INDIA

IMPORTANCE OF ARUN NEHRU IN UTTAR PRADESH NOTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 11 Jul 85 p 9

[Text] LUCKNOW, July 10--Contrary to speculation, Mr Arun Nehru, Union Minister of State for Energy and member of the Nehru family, continues to have his stranglehold on Uttar Pradesh politics.

It is by now well-known in political circles here that both Mr Mahavir Prasad, UPCC(I) chief, and Mr Santosh Singh, M.P. nad chief of the Pradesh Youth Congress (I), are "friends" of the State's political heavyweight. Mr Bir Bahadur Singh, who, in turn is a "friend", of Mr Nehru. The Arun Nehru-Bir Bahadur Singh combination has been instrumental in elevating Mr Prasad and Mr Santosh Singh to the top party positions.

When Mr Prasad came here immediately after his appointment as Pradesh Congress (I) chief about two months ago, he had said tubewells did not function well even in his home district, Gorakhpur. Political observers misinterpreted this statement attack on the State Irrigation Minister, Mr Bir Bahadur Singh, who belongs to the same district. But soon it was known that the UPCC(I) chief was only copying the style of Mr Nehru, who had a couple of days before, said that power situation needed improvement in Rae Bareilly. Before he became president of the State unit of the party, Mr Prasad was seen most of the time sitting at the residence or the office of Mr Bir Bahadur Singh. The two men from Gorakhpur continue to be "friends".

Mr Santosh Singh, who had defeated both Mr Chandrajit Yadav and Mr Ram Naresh Yadav in Azamgarh in the Lok Sabha elections, owes allegiance to the Nehru-Singh combination. Mr Bir Bahadur Singh had helped him get a party ticket for the Lok Sabha polls.

These two appointments apart the reconstitution of the UPCC(I) which was effected only last week obviates the fact that Mr Nehru and Mr Singh are in command. Past associates of Mr Nehru, who had been more or less shunted politically, have been given prominence this time. Mr Ammar Rizvi, former Minister and general secretary of the party, has been promoted as vice-president. But it is to his credit that he enjoys good relationship with both Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh and Mr Nehru. Mr Balram Singh Yadav M.P. and former State Minister, has also been made the vice-president, while Mr Abdul Rahman Khan Nashtar, who was denied a party ticket for the elections has been made

one of general secretaries. Mr Yashpal Singh, former Agricultural Minister, finds himself as one the executive members.

In the revamped and reconstituted UPCC(I) both supporters and vocal opponents of Mr Kamalapati Tripathi, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Mr Narain Dutt Tiwari and Mrs Rajendra Kumari Bajpai have been included. This is considered significant from the balancing point of view. The appointment of Mr Satyapal Malik, Mr Ram Pal Singh and Mrs Sheela Dikshit as general secretaries is surprising. While Mr Malik joined the Congress (I) after leaving the Lok Dal, Mr Ram Pal Singh is a very young party workers from Gorakhpur. Mrs Dikshit is the daughter-in-law of Mr Umashankar Dikshi. Gorakhpur weighs heavily in the list with the president, two general secretaries and three executive members.

CSO: 4600/1791

INDIA

COMMITTEE DISCUSSES AIR FORCE CAPABILITIES

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Jul 85 p 1

[Text]

Members of Parliament were briefed about India's attempts to acquire airborne warning and command systems (AWACS) aircraft at a special air display at Hindon air base on the periphery of Delhi on Thursday.

The consultative committee of Parliament attached to the Defence Ministry, concerned at the quantum jump in the sophistication of the technology of the aircraft received by Pakistan from the US, sought clarifications about India's capability to detect an attack early enough for suitable retaliatory action.

The special static and air display, the second to acquaint members of the consultative committee about the preparedness of the Indian Air Force to fulfil its responsibilities of air defence, interdiction, close air support and deep strike, was topped by a simulated air raid to test reaction procedures in the air defence mode.

During discussions the members stressed the need to strengthen early warning system because of the low-level penetration capabilities of the new aircraft given by the US to

Pakistan.

Defence Minister P V Narasimha Rao and senior IAF personnel assured members of the IAF's capacity to meet any challenge to the country's security and that it is also thinking in terms of futuristic methods of doing so.

A Mirage-2000 was brought especially to Hindon and members were explained its high manoeuvrability and the sophistication of its various systems which could tackle all tasks of supremacy during combat.

During the special display the IAF also demonstrated vertical envelopment of target with a helicopter-borne commando attack.

Mr Narasimha Rao allayed members' fears about lead time between placing orders and induction into service of new aircraft and said that there was no delay in acquiring the Mirage-2000. Simultaneously, he pointed out, indigenous research and development is continuing so as to bridge the gap in technology.

Earlier, the Defence Minister played glowing tributes to the late Air Chief Marshal L M Katre.

CSO: 4600/1793

INDIA

SOVIET-MADE HEAVY TRANSPORT PLANE INDUCTED INTO IAF

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 17 Jul 85 p 5

[Text]

New Delhi, July 16 (PTI): India today formally inducted the Soviet-made IL-76 heavy transport aircraft into its Air Force adding considerably to the air-lift capability of its military transportation fleet.

The acquisition of the four-turboengine heavy cargo jet makes India the first country in southeast Asia to possess the biggest military transport plane.

The aircraft christened "Gajraj" will replace the AN-12 packet. It was inducted at an impressive function at the Palam technical area by the defence minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, this morning. Present at the function were the air chief, Air Chief Marshal D.A. La Fontaine, and the Soviet charge d'affaires.

Lauding the Soviet assistance to India, Mr Rao in his speech said, "We had close cooperation and deep understanding with the Soviet Union in a number of critical sectors of our national life." The Indian Air Force possesses a number of aircraft, radar and weaponry of Soviet origin or manufacture, the defence minister said, adding that these had stood the country in good stead in peace and war.

Mr Rao expressed confidence that the Soviet Union would continue to provide necessary assistance to make certain that "our equipment is prepared to preserve peace and give protection should it find itself under threat."

The IL-76 cargo aircraft, designed by the Ilyushin design bureau, has a payload of 47,000 kg over a distance of 4,000 km

and provides facilities for transportation of heavy large-sized self-propelled and towed vehicles.

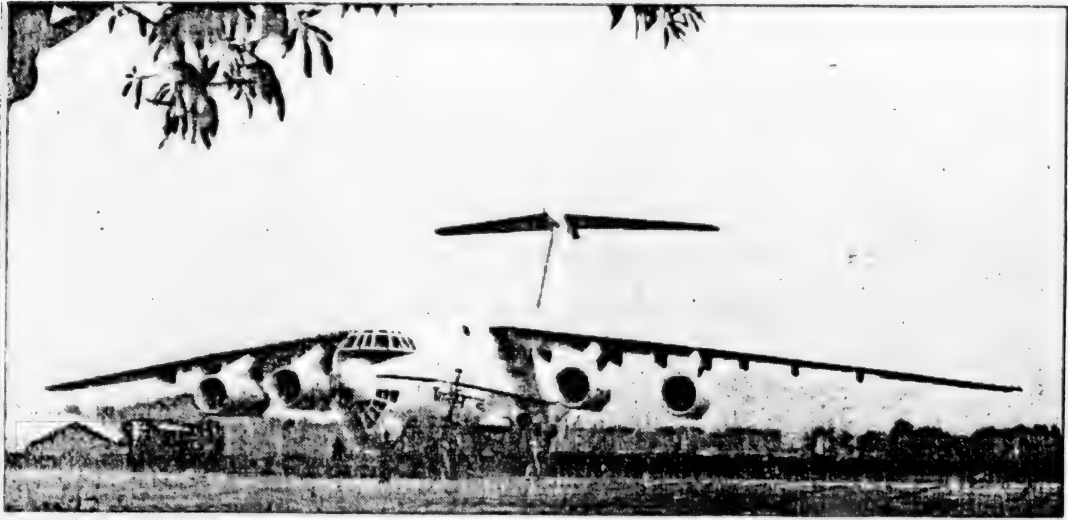
This proven aircraft, which has set 25 world records in its class for payload, speed and altitude, is equipped with a variety of effective navigation facilities.

It can carry 225 troops in two decks in the pressurised cargo compartment and is equipped with winches, telfers, toe plates and movable ramp enabling it to use unprepared airfields during loading and unloading procedures without ground cargo handling facilities.

The heavy transport aircraft, which has a cruising speed of 750 to 800 kmph, can attain a maximum altitude of 12,000 metres and can provide ambulance services for 114 personnel, including 72 stretcher patients. The aircraft, controlled by sophisticated computers, can also airdrop 126 paratroopers from cargo doors and two side doors.

Artillery guns, armoured vehicles, ammunition and other types of military cargo mounted on platforms can be airdropped from the aircraft. It can also undertake special tasks like couriers and conveying of VIPs and is capable of operating from grass strips and unprepared surfaces. It is also capable of operating from grass strips covered with snow up to 15 cm.

The IL-76 can fly nine-and-a-half hours nonstop. Places within reach in a single hop from New Delhi are Athens, Cairo, Damascus, Baghdad, Riyadh, Addis Ababa, Nairobi, Dar-es-Salaam, Seychelles, Manila, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Kuala



The first IL-76 long-range heavy transport Soviet-made aircraft arrived in New Delhi on Tuesday. The aircraft, equipped with four underwing pylon-mounted turbo jet engines, will eventually replace the Soviet-made AN-12 aircraft in the Indian Air Force. The aircraft will be called Gajraj.

Lumpur, Singapore and Jakarta. The range can be further increased by operating from coastal airfields.

The keys of the aircraft were handed over to the late Air Chief Marshal L.M. Katre three months ago. The Soviet Union has already supplied three IL-76s and two more will arrive here shortly.

CSO: 4600/1800

INDIA

PAPER REPORTS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN ASSAM

'Disturbed Areas' Act Revoked

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 19 Jul 85 p 1

[Text]

Guwahati, July 18 (PTI,UNI): The Assam government today revoked the Disturbed Areas Act, 1955, and the Armed Forces (special powers) Act 1958 with immediate effect as the state was now "completely back on the rails and there was no reason to harbour any apprehension."

The government also abolished the special courts which were set up by an official notification on January 18, 1984.

Announcing this in the Assembly, the chief minister, Mr Hiteswar Saikia, urged the members to associate and cooperate with the government in maintaining peace.

The Act was invoked during the peak of the Assam agitation on foreigners' issue in 1981 to check further worsening of law and order. The notifications were issued under the two Acts covering 110 police station areas in the state.

The chief minister claimed that the situation had now improved as the forces indulging in violence and communal activities were gradually isolated.

Mr Saikia said that the revocation will mean withdrawal of the Acts from all the areas in the state which had been declared

as disturbed except a three-km strip along the state's border with Bangladesh, the oil and power installations and small strips along pipelines and railway lines. The revocation will also not cover the reserved forest areas of Sibsagar, Jorhat and Karbi Anglong districts which had been declared as disturbed under the Acts for the last three decades.

The state was now completely back on the rails and there has been no reason to harbour any apprehension. The people have fully realised the necessity of maintaining complete peace and normality in the state and that has proved to be the best guarantee for peace and normal conditions in the state, Mr Saikia said.

Lok Sabha polls

Elections to the Lok Sabha from Assam are likely to be held soon after the monsoon in the middle of October, the chief election commissioner, Mr R.K. Trivedi, disclosed today.

Mr Trivedi said that he was hopeful that the commission would be able to publish the final electoral rolls in Assam by the middle of August.

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 22 Jul 85 p 4

[Article by Seema Guha]

[Text]

Guwahati, July 21: The revocation of the Assam Disturbed Areas Act, 1955, and the Armed Forces (special powers) Act, 1958, has been welcomed by the people of Assam. With these two "black Acts," repealed, the democratic and civil rights of the people have been restored after three years.

All political parties in the state have hailed the decision as a step in the right direction. Mr Nadeswihar Talukdar, secretary of the state CPI(M), said, "We demanded the lifting of these Acts for a long time. It should have been revoked at least a year earlier."

Mr Pulin Kuli of the Congress(S) voiced the same opinion, saying that "these Acts should have been lifted much earlier." He pointed out that it had not been done because "it suited the Congress(I) to enforce them for their own ends."

With the wide powers bestowed on the executive through these Acts, political activity in the state was easily manipulated to suit the Dispur administration, especially in the initial days of the Hiteswar Saikia ministry. Supporters and sym-

pathisers of the agitation, especially the AASU and regional parties like the Jatiyatabadi Dal and the Purbanchaliya Loka Parishad, found it virtually impossible to hold public meetings. Permission for meetings was generally granted at the last moment causing inconvenience to the organisers.

While the Saikia government repeatedly claimed that the situation in the state was normal, the 110 police stations continued to be covered by the two Acts. However, with the law and

order machinery completely broken down during the bloody elections of 1983 in the state, the two Acts had become necessary to effectively tackle the situation. But the powers vested on the police was often misused by the lower ranks and the paramilitary forces.

Senior police officials, asked whether the lifting of these Acts would result in fresh violence, said the existing laws were sufficient to deal with the situation. A police officer who preferred anonymity felt that the government would have done the police force a service by revoking these special Acts much earlier. "Policemen had come to believe that they can get away with just about anything in the name of curbing the agitation. Arrogance and irresponsibility of the police and para-military force operating in this state were to be seen to be believed," the officer said.

According to a Central government employee and sympathiser of the agitation, "the lifting of these Acts is only to dupe the people." He said the decision would not affect the rural areas as the police would continue to harass and intimidate the poor whether the Acts were in force or not.

Observers feel that the Armed Forces (special powers) Act and the Disturbed Areas Act have been lifted to pave the way for elections scheduled for October. However, prohibitory orders under Section 144 continues to be in force all over the state. According to a science graduate from a local college, the continuance of prohibitory orders "just shows that the government is not serious about restoring civil liberties."

AASU To Oppose Poll

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 22 Jul 85 p 4

[Text]

Guwahati, July 21 (UNI): The All-Assam Students' Union (AASU) today warned the Election Commission that it would not tolerate the "imposition" of another election in the state.

In a joint statement, the AASU president, Mr Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, and the general secretary, Mr Bhrigu Kumar Phukan, said their attention had been drawn to a reported comment by the Chief Election Commissioner, Mr R.K. Trivedi, regarding holding of polls in Assam. Any future election in the state must be held with the full consent of the people, they said.

The consent had to be obtained by the Election Commission and the Union government by preparing a valid and proper voters' list and restoring the democratic rights of the citizens, the statement said.

The AASU leaders alleged that the state government was an obstacle in the process of an "intensive revision" of the voters' list and civil liberties were being suppressed in every way.

The statement also said that the AASU was committed to hav-

ing a voters' list of only citizens of India to safeguard the future of Assam. The Election Commission, which had so far failed to produce a constitutionally valid electoral roll, would do well to concentrate on this matter, it added.

The AASU leaders said they would oppose any attempt to impose a "farical election" on the state and the Election Commission and the Union government would be responsible for its consequences.

They said the draft rolls, which they had received from all constituencies, had not been properly and adequately revised. The Election Commission had assured the Supreme Court and the AASU that the electoral rolls would be revised as per constitutional provisions.

The AASU had responded to the assurances and offered its conditional support to the revision process. But now it had been revealed that the process was dective and the draft rolls of many constituencies contained names of a large number of non-Indians, the statment said.

CSO: 4600/1804

INDIA

OIL, GAS COMMISSION TO EXPLORE BOMBAY HIGH

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Jul 85 p 7

[Text]

Dehradun, July 18 (PTI) —

The Oil and Natural Gas Commission, which has drilled 443 offshore wells till March 1985, is acquiring a fleet of rigs to discover a field as big as Bombay High in the western offshore basin.

A spokesman of the ONGC told newsmen here today that oil prospecting has been intensified in the offshore west and east coast of the Krishna, Godavari and Cauvery basins where a deepset well up to a depth of 5000 metres will be drilled in 1986 as the area is highly prolific. A comprehensive plan has been drawn and geo-scientists of the commission are reinterpreting the data covered so far to release locations for drilling. The delta model of the basin was prepared by the USSR and some geo-scientists in America are re-assessing it.

He said that ONGC which has 14 rigs operating in the offshore and 55 rigs in onshore will have 105 rigs by the end of the seventh Plan. Under a comprehensive plan strategy during the current year 186.25 thousand metres will be drilled in the offshore and 495.18 thousand metres in the onshore.

The spokesman said that despite financial constraints, the commission would be in a position to drill nearly 1800 wells during the seventh Plan period and was optimistic about discovering

a large number of small oil fields, and possibly, a major offshore field as big as the Bombay High.

Himalayan foot hills have been intensively covered by seismic surveys and the first well will be drilled in Cheri, in Bilaspur district in Himachal Pradesh. Later drilling will commence in Jawalamukhi, Nurpur and Surinsar areas in Jammu and Kashmir.

The commission has established a new northern region with its headquarters at Jammu to co-ordinate drilling activities. A Russian rig is being transported to Jawalamukhi where a super deep rig of 7000 metres capacity will be deployed. The spokesman said 17 land rigs and one jackup rig are being acquired in 1986, besides four rigs which are expected to be added under World Bank funding scheme.

A substantial drilling programme is being worked out in ONGC for extensive oil prospecting to plug drainage of foreign exchange by drilling deep wells exceeding 5000 metres.

During the sixth Plan period 40 new fields were discovered out of 112 structures, 24 onshore and 16 offshore and 3151.43 million tonnes of crude reserves have been established so far, he added.

INDIA

JANATA POSITION ON ELECTION COMMISSION TOLD

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Jul 85 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 19.—The Janata Party favours a three-member Election Commission to be chosen by a committee of three, including the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice of India and the leader or joint representative of the Opposition.

It says that the members of the Commission and State election officers (to be designated as Deputy Election Commissioners) should be judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts respectively or those eligible to be judges. District judges and sub-judges should be ex-officio district election officers and assistant returning officers.

Regarding the second suggestion, the Janata Party's position was almost that of the Lok Dal though there is a slight difference over the first. The Lok Dal had said that the Chief Election Commission and its members, if appointed, should be appointed on the advice of the Supreme Court.

In a five-page reply to the Election Commission's questionnaire, Mr S. Shahabuddin, general secretary of the Janata Party, says: "The Election machinery should be delinked from the executive. The Election Commission should have its own permanent staff up to the district level and should have the power to requisition additional staff from the executive for the conduct of elections on a temporary deputation basis.

"The Election Commission shall exercise full disciplinary authority not only on its own officials but also on those who are placed at its disposal during the election and shall have the power to punish them for any act which, in any way, detracts from the impartiality of the electoral machinery".

He added: "The sole responsibility for fixing the date of the General Elections or a by-election should be that of the Chief Election Commissioner. In any case, a by-election must be held within six months of the date of the vacancy. Polling must be completed in one

day, except in snow-bound areas.

Mr Shahabuddin said the Election Commission should have the power to monitor official media from the date of notification of the election to the date of the election and the official media shall be bound to consult the Election Commission on its programme in advance, if necessary. In order that no political party receives undue advantage.

The Commission should ban electronic publicity during the pre-election period when public canvassing is prohibited.

He favoured introduction of electronic voting machines and amendment of the Representation of the People Act. The equipment was already available and what was lacking was the will of the Government.

To remove imbalance between votes and seats as well as to improve legislative work, the German system based on direct election plus lists should be introduced.

The Janata Party said State funding should be immediately introduced on the lines of those recommended by former Chief Election Commissioners envisaging the creation of an election fund of Rs 100 crores for five years.

The Commission should order re-election only in those booths which were found to have been captured and not in the entire constituency as proposed by the Commission. "The Commission must order a re-poll in a booth, even if no booth-capturing has been reported, if the voting percentage exceeds 80%. The Commission must withhold the result of the constituency if the re-poll in the captured booths is likely to vitiate the results," the party said.

The party expressed reservations on the terms such as proven criminal shady past, history-sheeters, and on those detained or externed under the National Security Act or the Goonda Act, although those convicted could be disqualified.

INDIA

BRIEFS

BJP PRESIDENCY--Bhopal, July 22--Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee today affirmed that he would be stepping down as president of the BJP in November when he completes his term. "I wanted to resign from the post immediately after the general elections, but was prevailed upon by senior party members like Raj Mata to stay on till the next party elections" Mr Vajpayee clarified. Mr Vajpayee said he had decided not to seek reelection because he felt it was time to make way for younger leaders. According to the schedule released yesterday, the elections for the all-India BJP president would be held on November 15. [Excerpt] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 23 Jul 85 p 1]

PARTIES IN LOK SABHA--NEW DELHI, July 21--The Congress (I) continues to be in an unassailable position in the Lok Sabha, with a strength of 401 in the 544-member House. The next largest single party is the Telugu Desam with a strength of 30. It is the principal Opposition group. Only three other Opposition parties have double-digit strength: CPI(M) 21. AIADMK 12 and Janata 11. The remaining 10 recognized parties in the House have little more than a token representation: CPI 6, Congress (S) 3, J and K National Conference 3, RSP 3, Lok Dal 2, BJP 2, Muslim League 2, Forward Bloc 2, Kerala Congress 2, and DMK 2. There are, besides, nine Independent members. There are 32 vacancies. These include the 14 seats of Assam and 13 seats of Punjab, where the Lok Sabha elections have yet to be held. Of the remaining five, the Kendrapara seat in Orissa fell vacant following the decision of Mr Biju Patnaik (J), who was elected from there and from an Assembly constituency, to resign his Lok Sabha seat. The other four vacancies, which have been caused by the death of the sitting members, are: Bolpur in West Bengal, Bijnor in U.P., Churu in Rajasthan, and Kishanganj in Bihar. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 22 Jul 85 p 9]

INDO-SOVIET SPORTS PROTOCOL--NEW DELHI, July 22 (PTI)--India and the Soviet Union today signed a sports protocol for 1985 and 1986 aimed at upgrading the standard of sports in this country. The minister of state for sports and youth affairs, Mr. Jaichandra Singh, and his Soviet counterpart, Mr. Marat Gramov, renewed sporting links which, besides envisaging exchange of teams and coaches, would focus on Soviet efforts to make one of the regional units of the National Institute of Sports a centre of excellence in regard to appropriate sports disciplines. The centre, however, has not yet been decided. In this regard, both the countries have agreed to set up a joint committee of two experts from each nation. [Excerpt] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 23 Jul 85 p 11]

POPE'S POSSIBLE VISIT--BOMBAY, July 19--Pope John Paul II is likely to visit India for nine days, from February 1 to 10, Archbishop Simon Pimenta, chairman of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI), told a press conference here today. He said the Pope would arrive in Delhi by Air-India or Alitalia and leave from Bombay. He would spend a day in Bombay. The rest of his schedule is being worked out. The CBCI standing committee has chosen unity as the theme for the visit. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 20 Jul 85 p 15]

AMBASSADOR TO FINLAND--(UNI)--Mr. Kalarickal Pranchu Fabian, presently deputy high commissioner in the high commission of India, Ottawa, has been appointed ambassador of India to Finland in place of Mr. Avadhuth Raoji Kakodkar. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 11 Jul 85 p 9]

COOPERATION WITH BRAZIL--NEW DELHI, July 22--India and Brazil today signed a comprehensive agreement for cooperation in the field of science and technology, particularly in the biotechnology, agriculture and energy sectors. Detailed programmes of the agreement will be worked out by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR). The Indian team at the official talks which preceded the signing was led by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Khursheed Alam Khan. The Brazilian side was led by the visiting Foreign Minister, Dr. Olavo Egydio Setubal. The Brazilian Ambassador, Mr. Jorge d'Escragnolle Taunay and the Indian Ambassador designate to Brazil, Air Chief Marshal Dilbagh Singh (retd), were also present during the talks. Dr. Egydio Setubal was given a warm welcome when he arrived today. He was received by Mr. Khan. He told newsmen at Delhi airport that his visit was 'to express the importance, the new Government of Brazil attaches to India, one of the most important countries in the world.' During his four-day visit, he will discuss international as well as bilateral issues. 'Bilateral matters, however, will figure prominently in our talks,' Dr. Egydio Setubal said. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 23 Jul 85 p 9]

PRESS COUNCIL MEMBERS--NEW DELHI, July 10--Mr. Prem Bhatia, Editor-in-Chief of the Tribune, Mr. K. Vikram Rao, President of the Indian Federation of Working Journalists (IFWJ), and Dr. (Mrs.) Madhuri Shah, University Grants Commission chairperson, are among the 28 members of the newly constituted Press Council of India. The Government issued yesterday a gazette notification listing the names of the members. Following are the members: Messrs. Gaur Kumar Ghosh, D. S. Sodhi, Binod Mishra, S. K. Bose, Prem Bhatia, Ramu Patel, Prithvis Chakravarti, Kamal K. Bhatt, Om Mehta, Sailen Chatterjee, Ashok Tandon, P. Raman, Vikram Rao, Mahinder Mohan Gupta, Basudev Ray, Abid Ali Khan, Anil Kumar Verma, Narayan G. Athawalay, Harbhajan Singh and N. R. Chandran and Dr. (Mrs.) Madhuri R. Shah, Mr. Ranbir Singh Mahendra, Dr. Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya and Mr. V. S. Krishna Iyer, Prof. P. J. Kurien, Prof. K. K. Tewari, R. Ramakrishnan, and K. Vasudeva Panicker, MPs. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Jul 85 p 9]

NEW ITALIAN AMBASSADOR--New Delhi, July 20 (UNI)--Mr Rinieri Paulucci di Calboli has been appointed the Italian ambassador to India. Mr Calboli is at present his country's ambassador to Switzerland. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 21 Jul 85 p 5]

NEW MANIPUR PARTY--Imphal, July 11 (PTI)--Four independent legislators of Manipu today formed a new party "People's Progressive Council" (PPC), with Mr A S Arthur and Mr S Damodar Singh as its president and leader of legislature wing respectively. According to a PCC spokesman, Mr Sehpu has been elected general secretary of the party. The present party-wise position in the State Assembly is: Congress-35, United Democratic Party-12, Manipur Peoples' Party and Janata--two members each, Kuki National Assembly and CPI one member each and rest independents. The United Democratic Party was formed recently with former Agriculture Minister Ngurdiengljen as leader of its legislature wing and Mr A Ngairangbamcha as president. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Jul 85 p 7]

AHMEDABAD EXPLOSIONS--Ahmedabad, 25 Jul--Panic gripped the walled city area today following three bomb blasts in which eight persons were injured. The situation in the riot-torn city was, otherwise, peaceful with no incidents of either firing or stabbing which had already claimed over 40 lives in the past week. In the first incident early in the morning, a bomb was hurled from an auto-rickshaw in the curfew-free Khanpur locality. Four passers-by, including a woman, were injured. The other two blasts occurred in the Dariapur and Kalupur localities during the curfew-relaxation period. In spite of heavy police patrolling, shops and other business establishments in the areas downed their shutters apprehending the outbreak of violence in the wake of the blasts. The police, who have launched intensive combing operations, said no arrests had yet been made. They, however, suspect the hand of a terrorist gang behind the blasts following last night's large-scale seizure of crude bombs and other explosives at Dariapur. The superintendent of police, crime branch, Mr P. C. Ganatra, who investigated the Baroda dynamite case, is leading the inquiry into the seizure. [Excerpt] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 26 Jul 85 p 1]

ASSAM TERRORISTS ACTIVE--Guwahati, 28 Jul--Terrorist activity has again surfaced after a few months lull in Sonipur district on the northern banks of the Brahmaputra. Members of the Assam People's Liberation Army (APLA) have started collective drives from the villages of the district. Recently villagers of Johamari were ordered to pay heavy amount for the APLA fund. And a few other villages have also received similar notices. Most villagers are tightlipped on the issue as they fear dire consequences if they give any information to the police. Several cases of murder and intimidation have been reported in the district during the current month. On 24 July, a district congress leader, M. W. Hussain, was killed by some miscreants and on 5 July another person at Banbari met the same fate. On 8 July, there was an attempt on the life of a district police superintendent at Dhekiajuli. Miscreants also made an abortive attempt to loot money from a forest department van on 4 July. However, the police have yet to establish APLA hand in these incidents although a few APLA activists have been arrested. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 29 Jul 85 p 5]

CSO: 5650/217

PAKISTAN

ZIA CALLS FOR EFFORT TO ERADICATE RURAL POVERTY

Karachi DAWN in English 7 Aug 85 pp 1, 4

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 6: President Gen. Zia-ul-Haq called for a massive collective effort by the Government non-Government organisations, and people in general to stamp out poverty from rural life and improve living standards of the rural population.

Inaugurating an international seminar on the role of non-government organisations in rural development here on Tuesday morning, President Zia said in the recent past there has been a decisive breakthrough in the rural areas and various indicators of progress are now visible.

Yet, a lot more has to be done in Pakistan and in the developing world at large to improve the quality of life of the rural masses, he added.

He referred the speed of rural electrification, construction of roads, improvement in medical facilities and launching of educational programmes. But the fact remains, he said, that a very large section of the rural population is illiterate and a vast majority is denied the facility of clean drinking water. All these shortcomings have to be overcome, the President added.

Enumerating reasons for continued backwardness of the rural masses, President Zia said apart from resource constraints, two other factors have contributed to the lack of progress. Firstly, all efforts have remained confined to the Government level. Secondly, the concept of rural development has remained limited to agriculture. This imbalance has to be corrected, he added.

The President said Islam creates in a big way an urge in man to improve the quality of life in this world and in the world hereafter.

The President appreciated the assistance provided by organisations such as the ILO and FAO in promoting rural development. But, he said, the country had first to stand on its own feet and produce enough, not only for itself but also to provide food to other countries of the region.

He underlined the importance of non-Government organisations (NGO) in this, and said that NGO volunteers, being amongst the people they are working for, can evoke a better response and more cooperation.

He referred to the resurrection of local bodies in 1979, and said local councils have played a very significant role in improving the quality of life in the rural areas. He was confident that the newly-elected members of National and Provincial Assemblies and the Senate would work out a cooperative relationship for integrated development of their respective areas.

President Zia referred to the institution of Ushr and said a fund has been raised through this head which could be used to eliminate poverty in rural areas.

He asked the organisers of the seminar, the Rural Development Foundation, to give serious thought to how the Ushr money available could best be utilised for the welfare and uplift of rural masses within confines of the Shariah.

He said village folk have minimum demands. They need basic facilities, such as schools, medical centres, clean drinking water and roads. They do not ask for more. Government and the voluntary organisations must cooperate in providing these facilities.

He added that the rural masses are simple, sincere and straight. They support the Government if it works for their welfare and uplift. In the last referendum, the rural masses voted massively in favour of him.

He said the real transformation of rural society can only come through transfer of technology to the countryside. But that is not possible for as long as vast majority remains illiterate.

He said developing countries should cooperate with each other and exchange their experiences in order to vanish the vicious circle of illiteracy and poverty. Without education there could be no hope that the rural masses would be able to acquire even the basic amenities of life.

President Zia quoted the instance of South Korea, which has taken great strides in rural development. He said Pakistan would also like to learn and benefit from the experience of India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal, whose delegates are attending the seminar.

Earlier, the Federal Minister for Local Government and Rural Development, Mr Ghulam Mohammad Ahmed Maneka, said that there was a great need for improving the conditions of rural areas, which formed the backbone of South Asian countries.

He said the present Government in Pakistan had adopted many measures for improving the lot of the people in rural areas.

The Minister laid strong emphasis on the working of non-Governmental organisations for rural uplift.

Mr William B. Tate, Director of International Labour Organisation, Pakistan, said that non-governmental organisations should play an important role in rural development at a time when issues of hunger and famine have become a

central concern, not only of governments and international organisations, but also of ordinary men and women all over the world.

He said ILO recognises that there is inter-dependence between food, employment, and income. Referring to Pakistan, he said ILO has contributed modestly to rural development through its participation in the United Nations Development Programme in the field of manpower planning, employment promotion and vocational training.

He said by the end of 1984, total WFP assistance to Pakistan was \$579 million, or seven per cent of the programme's worldwide commitments. Pakistan is thus the second-largest receiver of World Food Programme aid in the world.

Admiral (retd) Mohammed Shariff, Chairman of the Rural Development Foundation, Pakistan, said that the horizons of rural development are much wider, as it covers the total socio-economic well-being of people in rural areas.

In his welcome address at the inaugural session of the three-day regional seminar on rural development, he said the ultimate aim of rural development is human development.

He mentioned a number of rural development programmes tried in Pakistan during the past 38 years, but without tangible results. He suggested that an impartial commission on rural development with non-Governmental representatives from the four provinces be set up to appraise the rural uplift programmes carried out so far and identify the problems and make necessary recommendations.

CSO: 4600/595

PAKISTAN

PRIME MINISTER DENIES PLAN TO DELAY LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW

Karachi DAWN in English 2 Aug 85 p 1

[Text]

LAHORE, Aug. 1: Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo said on Thursday that the process of revival of political parties would commence only after requisite legislation in this connection had been enacted.

Speaking at the airport before his departure for Islamabad after an overnight stay in the provincial Capital, the Prime Minister said there was no need to form a political group in the National Assembly, because a parliamentary group supporting the Government al-

ready existed.

The Prime Minister strongly refuted the suggestion that the National Assembly and Senate committees on the revival of political parties were formed only to delay the lifting of the martial law. He said nothing could be farther from the truth, because in actual fact the Government had fulfilled its promises.

He said the National Assembly body had submitted its report, as he had promised it would. He could not say anything about this report, he added, as it had been sent to the National Assembly Secretariat and not to him.

Mohammad Khan Junejo said that the National Assembly would discuss the report in the session commencing on August 7, and appropriate legislation would be drafted in the light of the debate and recommendations of the National Assembly, the adoption of which, [words indistinct] would signal the review of political parties.

He said there was no ambiguity about the whole process. Everything was clear, as time would show.

Replying to a question regarding a statement by Mr. S.M. Zafar that the Prime Minister could play a vital role in the reorganisation of the Muslim League, Mr. Junejo said that time would show.

Answering a question, the Prime Minister said the water situation in the country was fast returning to normal, as witnessed by the encouraging reports about the filling of dam reservoirs and because of widespread monsoon rains.

The Prime Minister said that detention of some persons in Sind indicated nothing, and that it was only a local matter.

The Prime Minister was seen off

at the airport by Federal and Provincial Ministers and senior Government officials. Punjab Governor, Lt. Gen. Ghulam Jilani Khan, Chief Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, and some Federal Ministers who had come to the city with the Prime Minister accompanied him in the special plane to Islamabad.

● QUETTA: Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, who is at present conducting countrywide tour to ascertain the views of MNAs, Senators and MPAs on the future political structure, a ruling party, and the agenda of the next National Assembly session, is due to arrive here in Quetta on Friday on a day's visit.

Later, he will go to Siad in the same connection.

Shortly after arrival, Mr Junejo is due to confer with legislators at the Governor House.

During his roughly 8-hour stay in the provincial Capital, the Prime Minister will also acquaint himself with developments in Baluchistan.

CSO: 4600/593

PAKISTAN

FINANCE MINISTER TALKS ABOUT BLACK MONEY, 'WHITENER' BONDS

Karachi DAWN in English 2 Aug 85 pp 1, 20

[Text]

LAHORE, Aug 1: Federal Finance Minister Dr Mahbubul Haq said here on Thursday that he was confident that the Government would be able to achieve more than the targetted amount of Rs 5 billion through the sale of National Bonds.

In a airport interview, he said that the investors in the National Scheme had also been granted the facility to borrow money from banks to purchase the bonds against their property at the rate of 75 per cent.

However, he warned those in possession of black money in any form and said that the Government would show no leniency after the expiry of the date for the sale of National Bonds, which was August 31. He also made it clear that no extension would be given in this date.

The Federal Finance Minister said that the Government had full knowledge about the persons hiding black money, and a Black Book had already been compiled to deal with persons, who fail to bring out their black money to purchase National Bonds before August 31.

Dr Mahbubul Haq said that the Government had all relevant information about the black money holders, their businesses and properties. He further said that the banks were controlled by the Government, as were exports and imports to a certain extent. Therefore, it was his sincere advice to such persons to avail of the last chance to convert their black money

into white.

PRICE HIKE: Regarding a question about the price hike, he said that he had tried his best to ensure that the current year's budget did not lead to a rise in the prices of essential commodities.

He said that the Government had imported wheat from the United States of America and was subsidising its sale in the country by about half of the purchase price.

He said atta was available at ration depots at the same price before the presentation of the budget. The Government was providing a subsidy of Rs. 3 billion on the sale of atta.

Similarly, he said that the Economic Committee of the Cabinet took a sudden decision to release 50,000 tons of sugar from Government stocks and reduced the duty on it from Rs 6.50 per ton to Rs 5. Moreover, he said, the Trading Corporation of Pakistan was allowed to import 50,000 tons of sugar from abroad to bring down and stabilise the price of sugar in the country.

PRIVATE BANKS: About the possibility of allowing private banks to function in the country, the Finance Minister said that this issue was under consideration of the Government, adding that it all depended on the performance of the nationalised commercial banks. They had been given six weeks to reorganise themselves

and improve their efficiency.

He said that there was no justification for a bank to take two weeks or a month to transfer a draft or foreign remittance from Karachi to Lahore. He said it was also in his knowledge that in certain cases the money of depositors meant for transfer to another city was utilised in between.

He said that a bank should not take more than three days to transfer a draft. In future, if banks delayed the transfer of drafts behind the given time, they would have to pay profit to the depositor for the delayed period.

He said that the efficiency of the nationalised banks would be judged from the month of September, APP

CSO: 4600/593

PAKISTAN

PRODUCTION MINISTER TALKS ABOUT STEEL MILLS

Karachi DAWN in English 2 Aug 85 Business Supplement P I, IV

[Article by Shaheen Sehba]

[Text] The Federal Government is prepared to disinvest shares of the Rs. 25 billion Pakistan Steel Mills once it becomes viable, the new Minister of Production, Mr. Khaqan Abbasi told 'Dawn Economic & Business Review' in an interview.

"First we have to ensure that the downstream industries are set up and the private sector has to do that, then we will sell PSM shares," he said.

The Minister also disclosed that the government had decided to write off all the losses of at least 10 public sector units which were being offered to the public for outright sale.

"If Rs. 1220 million have accumulated against Pak-Iran Textile Mills in the last four years, nobody will be prepared to buy such a liability. We have to write them off and this is the price we will have to pay for these units set up on social considerations."

In the automobile sector, Mr Abbasi said a plan had been prepared to revitalise PACO and this includes progressive manufacture of another Japanese truck—Isuzu, besides revamping existing units of Bedford, Hino and others.

Following are excerpts of the Minister's interview taken shortly before he left Karachi for Islamabad after a four-day visit to public sector units:

Conflict?

Q: Your Minister of State has recently said that 16 units were being disinvested this month while all the others except Pakistan Steel will also be disinvested within a year. Your statements have been slightly different on the subject. Is there a contradiction between the two?

A: No there is no conflict. We will disinvest all public sector units but it does not mean we are denationalising these. We will only sell a percentage of their shares to the public and keep the controls in the public sector. Ten

units we have identified for outright sale because running these units is not possible in the public sector. These include Shahdadpur Textile Mills, Tarbela Textile Mills, Larkana Sugar Mills, Uthal and Blueeli Textile Mills. Previously some of these units were offered for sale but the demand was so much that nobody was prepared to buy them.

The two Baluchistan textile mills have an accumulated loss of Rs. 1,220 million. Who will pay for this loss. Naturally we will have to write them off. The basic purpose of these units was to provide employment of 4,000 local people because economically these can never be viable. If someone can run these mills, we will at least recover some losses. It is a question of cutting down of our losses than gaining anything.

Q: What will be the total amount which the government will have to write off in all these 16 units on sale?

A: The number of units is not 16 but 10. But all will depend on what offers we get for these units. What we want is that, one way or the other, these units should become operational, either by us or by the private sector. Where the private sector can run industries profitably, we cannot. We want that employment should not be affected in any way and these units should run. We have already advertised the Quetta Textile Mills but so far no offer has come. We are not playing any tricks with anyone. Everything has been explained.

Q: Will you provide working capital to the parties which come forward to buy these units?

A: We cannot promise to give them any capital but certainly we will help them obtain it from banks. We will request the banks to help the new managers. A large amount of the banks is also involved in these units and in fact the final price will be decided in close consultation with the banks and financial institutions which have a stake in these projects. The NDFC will be there for Pak-Iran Mills.

Q: What is the range of disinvestment you have in mind for profitable units?

A: In some we will give away 10 per cent, in others 20 per cent. Yet in others we will just keep 51 per cent equity and so on. In industries where public utility products like cement and fertiliser are produced, we will not disinvest in a large way. We have to keep price controls over such industries.

Q: What about Pakistan Steel Mills shares?

A: Oh, we will sell its shares but the first thing is that we have to make it viable so that people see that we have the capability to run it. First sign of it will be that the entire downstream industries will have to be set up in the private sector.

Q: The latest Ministry of Production Annual Report stated that downstream industries had suffered a setback for two to three years because of a cabinet refusal to provide infrastructure to entrepreneurs. What is the position now?

A: The decision has now been taken. We will develop the infrastructure and we have fixed a price for it. We have decided to charge Rs. 500,000 per acre from any one who comes in and we have outlined the facilities which we will provide. The amount thus collected will be the equity of Pakistan Steel in that particular project. We will develop the infrastructure only in the periphery of the PSM and we are not concerned with other areas. It is a large area which can accommodate about eight to 10 downstream industries. Our main concern is to develop these industries.

Q: Have this area been declared a duty free zone for downstream industries?

A: No, that has not been done but we are trying hard. The moment this decision is taken, it will be announced.

Q: What is the actual ground position vis-a-vis downstream units. This area for 8 to 10 factories has been occupied or not?

A: No, nothing has been done yet. We are trying to increase the pressure on applicants to start installation. We may give them a three-month time failing which their permission will be cancelled.

Built-in Fears

Q: I like to ask a basic question. Everybody knew that the steel mills will come on stream in 1983-84. Yet nobody thought about the downstream industries, its infrastructure, its potential until very late so that the position now is that the mills is producing but there is no industry to utilise the product. Who is responsible for this?

A: People did think about it, the government did advertise it but you know there is a built-in fear in new investors. They were worried whether the mills will be built after all or not. Or whether it will run or not. Now they see it running, producing billets, sheets, coke, etc. There were two choices. Either government should have invested in downstream industries or let it to the private sector. If we had done that, it would have been more trouble for us. No one in particular can be blamed for this. The mistake is because of our own inherent weaknesses. I personally have been thinking of setting up a downstream unit.

Q: What happened then, were you not successful?

A: No. My men used to come here and discuss things. They would come back to me and report to wait for some time, wait for its completion, see what quality it produces and so on. The private sector investor is not in a hurry. When he sees a thing ready and working, then he wants to get in quickly and make the most out of it. So now we will have problems with investors fighting for units claiming that one came before the other and so on. So we have laid ground rules that who came first and whoever wants to set up in the shortest time will be given preference.

Q: Do you not think that already downstream industries are late?

A: Yes they are late but by only six to eight months. Units that start now will take from six months to three years, depending on the projects.

Q: When do you think PSM will break even or show profits?

A: In the next budget we will show you profits.

Q: What about PACO. Except one or two units running profitably, all the others are in the red. What plans do you have to revitalise this sector?

A: We are making plans. Hino is a new project which will run well. Isuzu is being assembled now. It will be manufactured progressively and will run alright. Bedford is being revived. Mack Trucks is being looked after. Pak-Suzuki is doing fine.

CSO: 4600/593

PAKISTAN

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON POLITICAL STRUCTURE TEXTED

Karachi DAWN in English 9 Aug 85 pp 4, 5, 6

[Text] Islamabad, Aug. 8: The National Assembly's 29-member Special Committee on the Future Political Structure of the Country presented its report to the House on Wednesday. Following is the text of the report:

1, Muhammad Aslam Khan Khattak, Chairman of the 29-member Special Committee of the National Assembly on the Future Political Structure of the Country, have the honour to submit this report on behalf of the committee.

It would be recalled that, after Haji Muhammad Saifullah Khan, Mr Mumtaz Zhmad Tarar and Maulana Gauhar Rehman, had moved their privilege motions in the House, the Prime Minister and Leader of the House, made a statement on June 4, 1985, proposing the setting up of a committee to go into the future political structure of the country, to fill up the vacuum that may be created by the lifting of martial law.

2. Accordingly, on a motion moved by the Minister for Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, the House approved the composition of the following 29-member committee, which was required to submit its report within two weeks: Chairman; Mr Muhammad Aslam Khan Khattak, Minister for Interior; and members; Mr Nisar MAhammad Khan, Nawabzada Abdul Ghafoor Khan Hoti, member, Mr Gohar Ayub Khan, Lt Gen (retd) Malik Abdul Majid, Mr. Anwar Aziz Chaudri, Malik Nasim Ahmed Aheer, Sardarzada Mohammad Ali Shah, Ch Shujaat Hussain, Pir Muhammad Ashraf, Makhdoomzada Syed Hamid Raza Gilani, Mr Javed Hashmi, Mr Hamza, Haji Muhammad Saifullah Khan, Mr Tasneem Nawaz Gardezi, Agha Atta Mohammad Khan; Kazi Abdul Majid Abid, Mr Abdul Hameed Jatoti, Nawab Muhammad Yameen Khan, Allama Abdul Mustafa Al-Azhari, Lt-Col (retd) W. Herberr Baluch, Mrs Rashida Pasha Khoro, Mr Guljee, Mr Muhammad Wasim Kham, Khwaja Muhammad Safdar, Mian Muhammad Zaman, Mian Muhammad Yaseen Khan Wattoo, Mr Zain Noorani, and Syed Asad Gilani.

3. The committee held sittings on June 5, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 15 in its first session. But, as it could not finalise its report within the stipulated period of two weeks, extension of time until July 20, 1985 was sought from the House on the June 16, 1985, which was granted. The Committee then held sittings on July 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 (two sittings), 10, 13, 15, 16 and 17 in its second session to complete this report.

To start with, the Committee discussed its terms of reference at length. Various viewpoints were expressed about the interpretation of the terms. The discussions mainly centred around two basic propositions: Whether the terms, as worded, meant a complete alternative political system in the country, or they had to be interpreted in a more limited manner in the context of the circumstances, leading to the setting up of the committee itself.

5. The members then desired to study material regarding the political system and political parties in some other countries. Copies of material about political systems and political parties in various countries were furnished to them.

6. After a great deal of deliberations about the scope of the terms of reference, the Committee came to the conclusion, by consensus, that its terms of reference should be interpreted in the context of the circumstances leading to its formation and the committee should, therefore, confine its deliberations to the revival of political parties in the country and for this purpose, the Political Parties Act of 1962 formed the basis for further deliberations.

7. The Committee agreed on the following principles for the revival of political parties of the country:

(I) Political process should be free from restrictions as far as possible; (II) There should be no discrimination before the law against any political party; and (III) The law should regulate the political process in the interest of the country.

8. On the basis of the above principles, the committee made the following recommendations:

I. Formation of a Political Party

(I) No political party should be formed with the object of propagating any opinion or acting in any manner prejudicial to Islamic ideology, sovereignty, integrity, security of Pakistan morality, or the maintenance of public order.

(II) No person should form, organise, set up, or convene a foreign-aided party or in any way be associated with any such party.

Explanation--A foreign-aided party means a political party which: (A) Has been formed, or organised, at the instance of any Government or political party of a foreign country or foreign nationals; (B) Is affiliated to, or associated with any Government or political party of a foreign country; and (C) Receives any aid, financial or otherwise, from any Government or political party of a foreign country, or any portion of its funds from foreign nationals.

II. Registration of Political Parties

(I). Any association or body of individual citizens of Pakistan, desirous of calling itself a political party, should apply to the Election Commission, communicating their intention to form a political programme to the Election Commissions along with their application. The Election Commission may allow, within a reasonable time, the association or body of individual citizens of

of Pakistan to launch their enrolment programme and to hold their elections at various levels with a period of one year. During the said period, the said association or body of individual citizens of Pakistan shall be entitled to propagate their programme in accordance with the conditions laid down for the formation of political parties and may hold closed door meetings, provided that in case the Election Commission does not allow the formation of a political party, the aggrieved association or body of individual citizens of Pakistan should have a right of appeal before the Supreme Court within one month of the rejection of their application.

(II) The association, or body of individual citizens of Pakistan, allowed to form a political party, under the above para, should submit, within the above said period, the following records before the election commission for the purposes of registration: (A) Copy of the Constitution of the political party; (B) List of the office bearers of the political party at the national and provincial levels; and (C) Details of its income and expenditure during this period.

The Election Commission, after being satisfied, should register the political party and, thereafter, the party may engage itself in normal political activity.

III. De-Registration of a Political Party

The Election Commission should have the right to cancel the registration of a political party if it calls: (I) To submit its accounts within specified period; (II) To hold elections of any of its office bearers within the time allowed by, and in accordance with, its Constitution and rules; (III) The Election Commission should not be registered a party without giving it an opportunity of being heard and rectifying the defects. In case an order is passed by the Election Commission for the de-registration of a political party, the party should have a right to appeal against such order to the Supreme Court within one month. If the political party is de-registered by the Election Commission and does not prefer an appeal before the Supreme Court, or the appeal is dismissed, it should cease to exist as such.

IV. Dissolution of a Political Party

(A) Where the Federal Government is satisfied that a political party is a foreign-aided party or has been formed or is operating in a manner prejudicial to the Islamic ideology or the sovereignty, integrity, security of Pakistan, morality or maintenance of public order, it should make such a declaration, and publish the same in the official Gazette. Upon such publication, the political party concerned should stand suspended and also its properties and funds should stand frozen.

(B) Within 15 days of making a declaration under above mentioned para (A), the Federal Government should refer the matter to the Supreme Court, whose decision on such reference should be final. The Federal Government should also apply to the Supreme Court, seeking confirmation of its orders suspending the political party and the freezing of its properties and funds.

(C) Any person who, after the dissolution of a political party, holds himself out as a member or office bearer of that party, or acts for, or otherwise associates himself with that party, should be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine or with both.

(D) If any person, who had been an office bearer of a political party at the time of its dissolution, indulges, or takes part, in any political activity within five years of its dissolution, he should be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine, or with both.

(E) A person who had been an office-bearer of a dissolved political party or had been convicted under the penalties laid down in connection with the dissolution, should be disqualified from being a member of Parliament or a provincial Assembly or a local body and from being elected or chosen as such a member for a period of five years from the date of such dissolution or conviction as the case may be.

Explanation--An office-bearer of a political party should mean an office-bearer at the national or provincial set up of a political party otherwise than a mere member of the working (central or provincial) or other committee of the party.

V. Crossing of Floor

(A) If after being elected on the ticket of a political party, a member crosses the floor, or leaves the party voluntarily for his own reason, he should lose his seat.

(B) If a member, without a reasonable cause abstains from voting despite his party directive, or votes against the direction of his party, the latter may approach the Election Commission to pronounce his having been unseated. An appeal from this decision should lie before the Supreme Court.

(C) If a member, elected independently, opts to join a party, he will be deemed to have been elected on the ticket of that party.

VI. Eligibility To Take Part in Elections

A registered political party should be eligible to participate in the elections and should be entitled to have a symbol from the Election Commission. A political party securing less than 2 per cent of the total votes polled in the general elections of the National Assembly should stand de-registered, but the members elected on its tickets should retain their seats as independent members and should have a right to opt for any other political party. The provision of 2 per cent of the votes should not apply to the political parties of minority communities.

VII. Lifting of Martial Law

As soon as the Political Parties Act is passed by the Parliament, urgent steps should be initiated to lift martial law.

(Signed: Muhammad Aslam Khattak, Chairman, Special Committee on the Future Political Structure in the Country.)

Notes of dissent--Annexures I to IV)

Reference VI: Eligibility To take Part in Elections Dissenting Note

The Committee decided that in the general elections for National Assembly by any party secured less than 2 per cent of the votes cast in the whole of the country should cease to exist. The Committee, however, decided, by a majority vote, not to impose any such condition province-wise. I dissented with the latter decision of the Committee. I am of the view that all political parties should endeavour to establish their footholds in all the four provinces. With a view to achieving this end, it should be obligatory for all political parties to obtain at least 0.5 per cent (half per cent) of votes cast in each province out of the 2 per cent votes mentioned above. This provision shall encourage national approach to problems and discourage regionalism. Securing of 0.5 per cent of votes out of total votes cast in each province would indicate that the party has been successful in at least having a nucleus in that province.

(Signed: Chaudhry Shujat Hussain)

Percentage of Votes To Be Obtained by a Political Party To Enable It To Retain Its Registration

The Committee by majority had decided that a political party must obtain 2 per cent of the total polled votes in a general election to the National Assembly, otherwise its registration should stand cancelled. This condition is proposed to be imposed to curb the mushroom growth of political parties in the country. We were of the opinion that for the healthy growth of political activities, not only the number of political parties be restricted, but the growth of political parties on the national level should be encouraged in order to bring about national harmony and cohesion, and at the same time political parties formed and working on regional basis may be discouraged. With this objective in view we had suggested to the Committee that it may modify its recommendation in this respect so that not only every political party must obtain 2 per cent of the polled votes on the national level in National Assembly election, but it should also obtain at least 0.5 per cent of the polled votes in the National Assembly election in each province. It is our firm opinion that our suggestion will go a long way in removing the presently obtaining fissiparous tendencies in the country. The political parties in order to ensure that survival will do their best to make their manifesto and political programme acceptable to at least some sections of the public in other provinces. They (political parties) will also do their utmost to persuade political workers living in other provinces to seek election to the National Assembly on their ticket. The political parties in this way will tend to become national political parties and growing regionalism and provincialism will be curbed.

More Than One Political Party Using the Same Name

The Committee was of the unanimous view that the tendency of mushroom growth of political parties must be checked. It was with this object in view, that it was suggested to the committee that factions of the same party may not be allowed to be registered. The Committee in its wisdom has left this issue undecided. In 1979, the Election Commission registered several parties which were in fact factions or groups. They had the same manifesto, but, they had appointed different officer-bearers. We think that this unhealthy tendency in the political parties should come to an end. The Election Commission must register only one party carrying a particular name.

(Signed: 1. Nawab Mohammed Yamin Khan, 2. Hamza, 3. Khawaja Muhammad Safdar.

Annex III. Note of Dissent With Regard To Declaration of Political Parties as Illegal in Continuation With Section 6.

In Section 6 of the Report, absolute powers of dissolving and declaring political parties as illegal have been vested in the Government. I disagree with this procedure. In my opinion, political parties in the country should not be trampled down without any cause. The Government has the right to seal the central office of any political party in case when such a party receives foreign aid and develops antagonistic foreign relations. The party will remain in existence and the Government is bound to make a reference to the Supreme Court within fifteen days. The Supreme Court is bound to announce its verdict within ninety days. Then action will be taken in accordance with the decision of the Supreme Court. It is because a political Government always has some particular political designs which have no legal standing. In the past we know the spirit of revenge the Ayub Government had towards Jamaat-i-Islami and the People's Party towards NAP. Therefore, I disagree with the decision that the powers to abolish political parties be given to the Government.

(Signed: Syed Asad Gilani.)

Note of Dissent With Regard to Problem 1-Percentage of Votes

I opine that for political parties, percentage of votes should be two per cent on national as well as provincial levels. Otherwise a single party in any one or two provinces can receive a huge number of votes on the basis of particular regional problems and provincial prejudice and ultimately the counting of votes exceeds two per cent throughout the country. We have in our history the ugly example of Awami League in East Pakistan and we have faced the ugly consequences of it. Each party should be truly in all Pakistan national party.

(Signed: Syed Asad Gilani)

Ethical Code for Political Parties

In our country an ethical code is framed for all collective institutions. Such ethical code is not in existence for political parties who are the guide

to public and determine the destiny of the country and the nation after coming to the throne. These parties instead of framing positive programme to step forward in their political clashes, indulge themselves in blaming, character assassination and keep themselves busy to degrade each other. Any party and its leader who takes lead in such activities, ultimately becomes successful. This results in lowering the moral standard of the public instead of making it high. Therefore, the presence of ethical code for political parties is essential so that the political environment is kept clean.

The following arrangements should be made:

1. No political party will use abusive languages and should not adopt indecent attitude against other political parties.
2. The party leaders should not be unnecessarily degraded.
3. No party should declare any other party as kafir or traitor.
4. Positive criticism should be made on the programmes and constitutions of the parties.
5. Mutual arrangements should be made in during works of national and communal welfare.
6. A cooperative attitude for the eradication of collective evils and for the reformation of country and the nation.
7. These recommendations are given as an appendix so that the representatives of the political parties can arrange these in collaboration with each other. If any party violates these rules, the registration of such a party will be subject to challenge.

(Signed: Syed Asad Gilani).

Annexure IV

Blessings and prayers be upon the Holy Prophet of God.

Honourable Chairman and the members of the Committee.

Following three conditions are imposed on the 29 member committee to frame a political structure:

- (A) That its suggestions should be in accordance with the spirit of Islam.
- (B) The specific political, social and historical perspective of Pakistan should be kept in view in the suggestions, and
- (C) The suggested new political structure should not only be in accordance with the requirements of the modern age but also practicable.

After the amendments in the Constitution of 1973 by President Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq, some out lines of the political structure have been given by the President himself, but the question of political parties is still unsettled. This question has also three aspects:

- (1) Firstly, the situation of law and order should not be disturbed with the lifting of martial law and the restoration of political parties and the forces against the survival of the country and anti-Islamic forces may not be able to make use of the opportunity and indulge in any kind of anti-state activities;
- (2) Secondly, the new structure should be framed after taking the people into confidence and having close contact with the people and political parties should not spring out in the shape of only some so- [as published].
- (3) Thirdly, the door of legal hair-splitting may not open and after this no gap may be felt.

Moral Responsibilities of Non-Party Assembly

The present assembly has been constituted on a non-party basis and the majority of people has participated in our election. It means the people have given the non-party system a mandate for a specific period.

2. Therefore, this is the moral responsibility of the present elected assembly that it should not violate the mandate given by the people. There is no scope of multi-party system of Western type in Islam. The whole Ummah is one party.

The establishment of various political parties in the West is due to the difference in political thinking and beliefs whereas in Islam there is no room for opposite parties due to the unanimity of belief but the formation of a party is allowed for administrative and organisational purposes, whereas such party should only be one in number. Its manifesto will be clear and difference will be allowed to the extent that how the manifesto is acted upon in a better way.

After these opening sentences, I will seek permission to present my three suggestions in brief on the basis of my knowledge and wisdom bestowed by God and with due apology I will differ with the decision of limiting the report just up to the amendments in the Political Parties Act, 1962 so that the following brief suggestions may deserve lawful debate in the assembly regarding various aspects as compared to the incomplete suggestions of the committee:

- (A) Non-party system,
- (B) One-party system, and
- (C) Limited party system.

Suggestion No. 1: Non-Party System

As the people have elected us giving a mandate and as they have rejected the decision of the parties who were opposed to participation in the election under the non-party system using the right of their vote in majority and the

President obviously declared this election as an interim period in his speeches but the Committee has given no suggestion for this interim period. Therefore, I will give suggestions for non-party system in the end of my note of dissent.

Suggestion No. 2: One-Party System

On the basis of Islamic ideology, the whole Ummah is one party and the logical political structure which arises out of it is that one-party political system should be introduced in Pakistan. As Pakistan is an ideological State having the ideology of Islam and every member of the National Assembly, during his candidature and afterwards in his oath as member, has promised to remain faithful to Islam. Therefore, the enforcement of multi-party political system which violates the Islamic ideology of the unity of Ummah is not included in the mandate. The present assembly should keep in view the administrative aspects instead of ideological discussion at the time of framing the political structure. The advantages of one-party system are large in number and are tried one:

1. The unity of Ummah is safe-guarded in one party system and consensus on national ideology remains intact. This is why all the Socialist states of the world obey the idea of one party system.
2. There is no room for purposeless opposition and difference for the sake of difference and the nation remains united after the fundamental rules are decided and at the same time it provides for the expression of difference of opinion.
3. One party system in some countries has been used for dictatorship but this system fully provides for the development of democracy also. One party system has been introduced on political basis in many countries of the world. Kenya, Tanzania, Mexico and Colombia are included in these countries. These countries are called democratic and in general term, they are known as democratic countries because the party at every level is organised and elections are held in it freely and more than one candidates are allowed to contest in every constituency in the elections in the country. The difference of opinion is allowed in the meetings of the party but when a decision is taken with consensus, every member has to abide by it. No member can sabotage the decisions of the party only because he did not agree at the time of taking the decision.

Honourable members, the following procedure should be adopted to establish the one party ideological system in Pakistan.

The National Assembly should decide for the formation of ideological party and the President of the country should be elected as its ex-officio head. If the President of the country, cannot be elected due to any reason the Prime Minister should be elected as head in his place.

Before lifting the martial law referendum should be held on the question of forming a new party in the country. After having the positive result of the referendum (which I think will be positive) the enrolment of the party should be done on central, provincial, district and tehsil levels and party elections should be held. After the completion of the organisational structure of the party, the martial law should be lifted before December 31, 1985.

Those who do not adopt the membership of the party should be debarred from participating in the national elections and interference in the national politics. Every person in the party should have complete freedom of his opinion even though the opinion may be against the majority and the civil liberties of every individual of the Ummah should be safeguarded completely. Party elections should be held annually on tehsil and district level and after every two years on central and provincial levels. The conditions of the 1973 Constitution should not only be retained for elections to national offices but the addition of few is also inevitable on an ideological basis.

Mr. Chairman, My suggestion for one-party system will certainly be astonishing for my friends who are influenced by Western democracy. But the experience of the Third World countries bears testimony that the multi-party system of Western democracy has proved ineffective for them. A few Western analysts of political parties are agreed on the point that at the initial stage of development of Western types of democracy the existence of various parties in itself negates the democracy. So you will find in the history also that till 12 years after the first presidential election in America, the political parties did not exist. In France, political parties did not exist from 1790's revolution till 1870 and the first parliament of Great Britain was also virtually based on a non-party system. In India oneparty rather one family remained in power from 1947 till 1970 and during all this period it was ruled by the Congress. In other words, it was ruled under one-party system. That is why there was political stability in India and democracy also developed there.

Mr. Chairman, My purpose in citing these examples is only this that besides the Committee and National Assembly the group may be satisfied whose mind remains perturbed by the apprehension that the experience of one-party system will isolate us from other countries. Otherwise this argument should be sufficient for the momanin that God and his Prophet (peace be upon him) have prohibited the Muslims from forming groups and factions.

Suggestion No. 3: Limited Party System

Mr. Chairman, If one-party system is not acceptable to the honorable members of the Committee despite these solid arguments by me, the hotch potch of multi-party system should not be established in any case, which overwhelming majority among us has obviously opposed forcefully while expressing their views. The Islamic identity has been damaged by the permission to form every type of political parties so far so that some political parties are engaged in activities against the basic ideology of the country.

Therefore, in my opinion, limited party system is a lesser evil. Which should restrict the number of political parties and besides they should work within the limitations (framework) of the national ideology (Islam) under a few conditions in the light of ideological basis. Two basic principles should be kept in view about the limited party system.

Firstly, that perfect right of organisation will remain intact in the country and opponent of the national ideology will have right to form their organisations (including political organisations). The registration of these parties and organisations will be necessary.

Secondly, that Government, Parliament and Election Commission will accept only specific number of parties and only the candidates of the same parties should be allowed to contest the elections under party symbols while others should be allowed to contest the elections individually. The number of parties should be fixed by law. If any party cannot get prescribed number of votes, it will be abolished automatically due to non-fulfilment of conditions and if any other party group fulfils the required conditions it should be accepted as a valid party.

Following steps can be taken for the limited party system:

(1) The members of the existing National Assembly may be given the chance to establish a maximum of four parties. A party may be established by 20 members of the National Assembly and four members of the Senate, representing every province. In this way if 24 members representing both the Senate and the National Assembly are present in two Houses (Parliament), they can work as a political party.

(2) The parties organised in this way, will be recognised as political parties and will be registered. The parties outside the Senate and the National Assembly can be registered under the Societies Act, but they will cease to be political parties.

(3) The symbols in the 1990 general elections may be allotted to only those parties which will fulfil the above mentioned conditions. But, if their representation will decrease in the general elections, they will lose their right and if any new party fulfils these conditions, it will be recognised.

(4) Strict laws should be enacted against political violence and agitation and spreading of religious hatred may be declared a national crime. Martial law be lifted only after the enforcement of these laws. The parties in the House may be given time for their organisation before lifting the martial law so that if in future, anti-State elements create disturbance in the public, these parties should be organised to counter it, and they may check this violence through their political organisation instead of by martial law.

Mr Chairman, as far as legislation for political parties is concerned, 56 countries out of 58 countries in which democratic system is in vogue, have essentially any type of enactment for the political parties and now India has also enacted such law. However there are also traditional restrictions on political parties in England and Canada where such law does not exist. The examples of restricting the member of political parties through legal measures are also prevalent in the political system of Egypt, Turkey and Indonesia. In Indonesia, three parties were established by abolishing already existing political parties through legal measures and three general elections are held there on the said basis. Three new political parties have been got established in Turkey also, and the same has been followed in Egypt also. Sir, in Egypt religious movements are allowed to exist in their present form through making alliance with any political party so, the Ikhwan-ul-Muslemin has maintained its existing position. But its members take their seats in the Parliament as the members of the Wafd Party.

This 29-member Committee was formed on 4th June 1985 during the session of National Assembly elected on a non-party basis to propose a political structure for the country. This Committee was formed to fulfil the demand that martial law may be lifted and the representative government may be given chance to work with its full powers and such proposals may be given for the furthrance of the political process that may satisfy and please the people.

As far as the lifting of martial law is concerned, it is the demand of the whole nation and our people and politicians have constantly raised this demand. Therefore, after the Constitution of an elected assembly on non-party basis, this demand has come in the forefront effectively. And on the same basis, the elected provincial assemblies have unanimously recommended the lifting of martial law. The preliminary statement of Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and the statements of the provincial Chief Ministers have strengthened the said demand. President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq is also in favour of lifting of martial law, as a President of Pakistan.

But, whether this is such an easy task, as is supposed by two Political Committees in the light of the said statements and as is expressed by the leaders of the political parties outside the parliament.

Whether martial law can be lifted without legal safeguards and other guarantees and, whether after lifting martial law and the representative government in spite of getting the chance to work with full powers, our national problems can be solved?

Whether we have taken into consideration that when the criminals will increase the number of crimes due to bribery and recommendations, the provincialism and linguistic prejudice will grow tremendously. The fanatics will repeat the incidents which occurred in Quetta during July 1985. The college and university students will be instigated to revive their unions, there will be lockouts and strikes in the factories and in this way some secret powers and wire-pullers will create disorder and disturbances to such an extent that the people will immediately demand to impose martial law. Will then we be able to deliver the entire nation from the vicious circle of imposing martial law after every civil government and then raising demands to lift it after its imposition?

Honourable brothers, unless the real disease is diagnosed, this circle will remain intact and the nation will be driven into unfathomed depth. Pakistan was created for the establishment of a society in which political, economic and social rights of people would remain secure, the true representative of the people would be elected to tutilize the national resources and run the government, monopoly of the privileged classes would end and collective justice would reign supreme.

The society based on Islamic social justice was the aim of the Quaid-i-Azam. An effective and visible progress may be made to achieve this object, the people of Pakistan may enjoy the basic rights, the society based on tyranny and exploitation and the existing economic social structure may come to an end. The have-nots residing in slums in cities, shelterless farm labourers, downtrodden and destitute people may be provided with their basic needs. Equal opportunity for everybody, class distinctions prevailing in education, health, food,

dress and accommodation may end. Respect for mankind may be established. The moral condition of the society may be good and motives for crime and sin may come to an end. The foreign policy must be subservient to the existence of God, the teachings of the prophets (peace be upon them) and the interests of the country and then no opportunist will dare to impose martial law. As this would be the very real Islamic system for which Pakistan was established.

But when the condition of the society is deteriorating, clash of communal interests exists, the poor are becoming poorer and the rich are becoming richer, political parties are fighting with one another and are torn by internal differences and are not allowing democracy to develop within their folds and are publicly advocating getting foreign aid, support under such conditions that it may be justified to impose martial law for the security of the country and for the security of the ideology for which this country was established.

Mr. Chairman, there is a big line of demarcation between martial law and accountable elected government and I fully realize its importance. But when responsible members of the elected government are led by class distinctions and their social and economic preferences may not be quite distinct and different from the present rulers, then this journey from military rule to civil government may be appreciated, but no hope can be pinned on it for any basic change. The problem before the people of Pakistan is to divest all power from the vested interests and the persons who have intention and efficiency may replace the social and economic structure by honesty, candidness and fortitude. They would come forward to hold the reigns of government. And therefore these elections have been held on non-party basis from the first and last time so that the party attachment may not be able to alter the social and economic structure.

Honourable members, I shall request with great confidence and eagerness that all the acceptance of your proposals vide Political Parties Act, 1962, the restored parties will whole-heartedly demand the present government to resign and to hold real elections in the country. After the next few days some political parties will claim that this representative government is non-representative government and will demand the establishment of national government till the general elections are held and by the recommendations of this Committee, political parties will be revived.

After their immediate registration, some of these parties will come forward and start a movement that new elections might be held and this demand will be very effective morally and the continuance of a National Assembly elected on non-party basis will be morally unfair. Therefore my proposal is that this Committee may propose a procedure that will serve the needs of the present time till the next elections and participation in power and the transfer of power may become equally.

This process may be as follows:

1. The National Assembly might discuss all the orders and regulations issued from July 1977 uptill now,
2. A detailed discussion be held on the recent amendments in the 1973 Constitution,

3. The National Assembly and provincial assemblies elected on non-party basis may work out a procedure for the interim period (the details of which I shall present in the National Assembly).

Signed: Pir Mohammad Ashraf.

CSO: 4600/597

PAKISTAN

MAZARI DENIES DIFFERENCES WITH WALI KHAN

Karachi DAWN in English 7 Aug 85 p 6

[Text] Karachi, Aug 6: The National Council of the banned NDP will meet sometime next month to take up the issue of Mr Mazari's resignation.

Talking to newsmen at his residence on Tuesday, Mr Mazari said that he had received a communication from the party leaders in this connection and he expressed the hope that this time the council will hold its meeting in Sind as earlier ones were held in other provinces.

He did not agree to a questioner that there was a clash of personalities between him and Khan Abdul Wali Kham, the NDP chief, and added that he would continue to work as an ordinary member if his contention was accepted by the National Council.

He observed that the present moderate leadership in the country was becoming irrelevant to the younger elements in Sind and Baluchistan and they have lost all hopes that the leaders could deliver goods to them in the present circumstances. The younger elements are coming closer to the extremist elements taking strong lines in politics, he added.

While replying to another question, Mr Mazari said that there were no differences in the NDP on the question of Afghanistan as his party stood for a "positive non-aligned foreign policy." He advised the Government to hold direct negotiations with the Babrak Karmal Government in Kabul as the Americans held talks with its adversaries on Vietnam and Korea. Why should Pakistan Government refuse to holding talks with Karmal Government, he asked.

Mr Mazari said that he was leaving for Lahore on Wednesday on a private visit and would return to Karachi next week.

CSO: 4600/595

PAKISTAN

REACTIONS TO REPORT ON POLITICAL STRUCTURE REPORTED

Karachi DAWN in English 9 Aug 85 p 20

[Text] Rawalpindi, Aug. 8: There have been varied reactions among political circles to the National Assembly special committee's report on future political structure presented to the House on Wednesday.

Veteran Muslim Leaguer Sardar Shaukat Hayat said the report had convinced him that martial law would never end in the country. Being an aged and broken man, he said, "all I can do is pray to God to save Pakistan."

The formation of this Assembly was contrary to the principles of the Quaid-i-Azam, he said.

The chief of Pakistan Awami Jamhoori Party and ex-Minister Khurshid Hasan Mir said political parties are born from political necessities and cannot be regulated or banned by official agencies or even by Courts.

The Vice-President of Jamiat Ulema-i-Pakistan, Pir Barkat Ahmad, said that the report was another "delaying tactic" to prolong martial law.

--Karachi: Mr Fatehyab Ali Khan, President of the Mazdoor-Kisan Party, rejected the special committee's report on the plea that it deviated from its main term of reference, that is, the lifting of the martial law (our Staff Reporter adds).

He called it "an attempt to eliminate liberal, democratic and progressive parties from the political scene."

Mr Iqbal Haider, Secretary General of the Qaumi Mahaz-i-Azadi, said it seemed that the basic aim of the report was to prolong martial law. He was also of the view that the three basic principles enunciated in the aims and objects had been "clearly negated by the specific recommendations made by the specific recommendations made by the committee."

A spokesman for the banned JUP said it appeared that moves were afoot to ensure that MNAs and MPAs who now sign the Muslim League parliamentary party membership form do not at a later stage desert it.

Jam Mohammad Yusuf Khan, MNA from Baluchistan's coastal region, said that he had not studied the report and he would offer comments later.

Sardar Fateh Mohammad Mammasani, MNA from Quetta Chagai, declined to give his views on the same plea.

Mr Shah Mohammad Shah, Acting President of the PNP, criticised the NA committee's report and said that it had retained arbitrary powers to eliminate the political parties opposed to the system of Government.

Most top-rank leaders are out of Karachi, and were therefore unavailable for comment. Independents, on the other hand, are withholding comments on the report.

--Lahore: Sardar Shaukat Ali, Secretary-General of the MKP, criticised the recommendations of the NA committee, describing them as proposals for "the perpetuation of martial law in a new garb."

CSO: 4600/597

PAKISTAN

PRESS ORGANIZATION CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT-PRESS RELATIONS

Karachi DAWN in English 7 Aug 85 pp 1, 4

[Text] Karachi, Aug 6: Identifying areas that call for urgent attention by the Government in its policy towards the Press, the Executive Committee of the All-Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) has pointed to recent severe advertising cuts against such newspapers as Dawn, Ibrat, Nawa-i-Waqt (Karachi), Amn and Sind News.

A resolution unanimously approved by the APNS Executive Committee on Tuesday has underlined factors hampering the growth of constructive Government-Press relations and has said that the Press was being further restricted despite stated moves to the contrary.

Other issues raised by APNS relate to Press and Publications Ordinance, the adhoc policy of freezing Government advertising rates, imposition of Iqra surcharge and the question of premises for the proposed Press Institute.

Following is the text of the resolution:

The Executive Committee of the APNS is of the opinion that recent moves towards a civilian Government have not been fully reflected in an attitude and policy towards the Press that is conducive to its healthy growth. Some quarters continue to pursue crude methods to stifle constructive criticism. The continued existence of black Press laws leaves the Press in the anomalous situation of being further restricted despite stated moves to the contrary.

The Government needs a positive legislative and policy framework in which to address the problems of the Fourth Estate. Four areas, however, are identified for urgent and necessary action which merit immediate attention by the Government:

--The Press and Publications Ordinance had been under consideration by the Federal Shariat Bench, and large sections of it had been struck down as un-Islamic. The Punjab Government has appealed against the decision of the Federal Shariat Bench to the Supreme Court. The APNS is firmly of the belief and that the decision of the Federal Shariat Bench be implemented along with such suitable legislative rectifications as are jointly agreed with the representatives of APNS and CPNE. These pertain to areas such as the issuance of declarations, the determination of punitive measures and the mechanism for arbitration.

--The advertising policy of the Government leaves much to be desired in terms of promoting a genuine Press. There are two major areas of concern with respect to Government policy on this issue. The first is the arbitrary and unjustified use of Government advertising as a weapon. As a custodian of public funds, the Government of the day cannot use such funds to enforce limited political objectives that violate acceptable norms. The recent severe advertising cuts against newspapers such as Dawn, Ibrat, Nawa-i-Waqt (Karachi), Amn, Sind News, and numerous other newspapers have no justified basis in either ethics or law. It would be unfortunate if a civilian Government continues to exercise those very weapons against the Press whose use has been strongly identified with other authoritarian Governments in the past.

Another major area for concern is the adhoc policy of freezing Government advertising rates which have risen by only 17.5 per cent, or an average annual rate of 3.5 per cent, for the past five years. This rate is being kept artificially low by deliberate policy, so as to damage the financial autonomy of the Press. It is hoped that negotiations with the APNS for a strong upward movement of these rates will be immediately instituted.

--The imposition of the Iara Surcharge on the Press with the avowed objective of "promoting" education is a total contradiction in itself. It fails to understand the role of the Press in enhancing literacy and must be withdrawn, if Government is to be perceived as being sincere in increasing literacy and raising educational standards.

--The setting up of the Press Institute of Pakistan in the major publishing centres of Karachi and Lahore has been a victim of neglect. The allocation of the old FPSC Building in Karachi as the premises for the Press Institute is still awaited since the last two years. The Press Institute is the key towards training journalists, thus solidifying the foundations of the national press in the future. A commitment by this Government towards the Press Institute of Pakistan would logically be construed as a meaningful contribution towards the future of Journalism in this country.

There are many factors that are at present hampering the growth of constructive Government-Press relations, but these four major factors are the nexus of the problem. The APNS Executive Committee urges the Government to give these matters their immediate attention; and to announce a constructive Press policy that allows and facilitates the survival of an unfettered Press.

CSO: 4600/595

PAKISTAN

SBPF ISSUES 'CONFEDERAL STRUCTURE' DOCUMENT

Karachi DAWN in English 2 Aug 85 p 18

[Article by M. A. Mansuri]

[Text]

LONDON, Aug 1: The Sindhi-Baloch-Pushtoon Front on Wednesday released a proposed outline of "The Constitutional Arrangement in a Confederal Structure for Pakistan" which was to be released on July 23 at a news conference, but had to be postponed, according to Abdul Hafeez Pirzada, "due to the sad demise of Shahnawaz Bhutto."

The 16-page document envisages that "the confederation shall consist of the four States of Sindhi, Baloch, Pushtoon and Punjabi peoples. It shall be a Republic representing their unity and desire to live together under one flag. The central institutions shall be called the Republic of Pakistan. As a mark of their sovereignty, each State shall have its own flag."

It says, "The Republic shall have authority over defence, foreign affairs, communications, currency, arbitration powers in disputes between the States," but "the authority of the Republic in the matter of defence shall not derogate from the right of the States, to raise civilian militias and other law-enforcing agencies."

It further says, "The subject of foreign affairs shall not entitle the Republic to negotiate any foreign loan or assistance for the benefit of a State without prior concurrence of that State. Foreign trade shall be conducted by the States within the framework of the foreign policy of the Republic. The accounts of foreign exchange earned by each State shall be separately maintained and utilised."

The Republic of Pakistan, it says, "shall consist of the President, who will be elected by rotation from the

States in alphabetical order for four years, the Council of Common Interests with the Prime Minister as its Chairman, the Senate and judicial institutions."

It further said the principles of policy, incorporated in the Constitution, shall provide for "non-alignment in the sphere of foreign affairs, and friendly relations with all, in particular with the neighbouring States and countries, social justice for all citizens, and complete freedom in matters of religion and faith."

The executive authority of the Republic, it said, shall vest in the Council of Common Interests (the Cabinet), which shall have equal representation from the States. The Prime Minister shall be elected by an absolute majority in the Senate, which will also have equal representation from the four States. The Senate shall have a standing judicial committee of eight members, with two judges nominated by each State for four years. The office of the Chief Justice, who will be appointed by the President, shall rotate among the States. If a state challenges the authority of the Republic, it shall be incumbent on the Republic to approach the court and seek its verdict upholding the act of the Republic.

About the armed forces, it says that, among other things, their composition, command, strength and operations will have to be subjected to the strictest disciplines, providing limitations in the Constitution, and expenditure on defence during peacetime will be not more than three per cent of the GDP.

PAKISTAN

DWINDLING FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES CAUSE CONCERN

Karachi DAWN in English 2 Aug 85 Business Supplement p I, IV

[Article by M. Ziauddin]

[Text] Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves are said to have dwindled to about 450 million dollars. And since there appears to be no possibility of any overnight change in the situation, the official economic top brass of the country has gone to Washington to mobilise about 400 million dollars of US and World Bank assistance on an emergency basis, according to informed sources.

The Federal Finance Secretary, Mr H. U. Beg, the Secretary General of Economic Affairs, Mr Ejaz Naik and the Secretary General of Planning Division, Mr Vasim Jafary are said to be negotiating with the US officials for a 250 million dollar aid over and above the commitments made by the US for the year through the USAID 3.2 billion assistance package and through the Aid-to-Pakistan Consortium.

Simultaneously, these officials are said to have requested the World Bank for quick disbursement of what is described as sector loans for industry and agriculture which the Bank had indicated it would consider at the last Aid-to-Pakistan Consortium meeting at Paris, this year.

Reserves

According to knowledgeable sources when the reserve position became precarious these decision makers had first thought of requesting the US to reschedule its debts. But this move was abandoned when it was pointed out to them that it would become too difficult to borrow from the commercial market once the re-scheduling is obtained.

The commercial banks usually hike up their interest rates to 2 to 3 per cent over Libor while extending credits to countries with rescheduling arrangements, as in their estimates such countries lose their creditworthiness.

It is believed that Pakistan actually needs about 900 million dollars to push up its reserve position to respectable levels as well as to finance its immediate import needs.

of these 900 million dollars, the country expects to raise about 250 million dollars from the US on bilateral basis, 200 million dollars from the World Bank and about 450 million dollars from commercial banks.

Needs

Since the remittances are going down and the crop position for the next year appears rather uncertain, it is believed that it would be difficult for the country to mobilise as much as 450 million dollars from the commercial market because these markets usually extend credits to Pakistan on the basis of its crop position and its ability to earn through manpower exports.

However, it is possible that if Pakistan were to obtain some extra assistance from the US and the World Bank, the commercial banks would also join in with about 450 million dollars at concessional rates.

Remittances

According to experts, Pakistan's balance of payments position has come under heavy pressure not only because of declining remittances and dwindling exports but also because of escalating quantum of repayments which has increased in recent years to almost one billion dollars.

Besides, according to these experts, the projects made in the current year's foreign exchange budget were rather ambitious. They said Pakistan's foreign exchange absorption capacity has been stagnating at about 1.3 to 1.4 billion dollars over the last few years.

Consequently, they said, a lot of aid almost to the tune of five billion dollars had accumulated in the aid pipeline. Of this, about 4.5 billion dollars are project aid which means the country not only has to have the counterpart rupee to utilise this aid but it also needs to improve its implementation machinery to consume it at a quicker pace.

In their opinion, recognising the fact that quicker utilisation of the project aid would not be possible during the current year, the policy makers, decided to seek increased commodity and food aid which for the current year have been budgeted at about 550 million dollars. This, according to these experts, was a very ambitious estimate.

Wheat Import

The policy makers, it is believed, had thought that they would get at least about one million tons of wheat under the PL480 programme in view of the current shortage of wheat in the domestic market.

But since the pressure on PL480 from the African continent was already very high, Pakistan was told that it would not get any wheat under this programme. Instead, the USAID offered 100 million dollars for the import of 500,000 tons of wheat.

As a result, Pakistan had to consider borrowing about 70 million dollars from commercial commodity credit which extends credits at commercial rates for a period of three years. Besides, in case Pakistan fails to buy another 600,000 tons of wheat through barter, it will have to mobilise another 120 million dollars to import this quantity of wheat during the course of the year.

So, out of 250 million dollars budgeted under food aid for the year, Pakistan so far could mobilise only 100 million dollars though the USAID and, therefore, it urgently needs to mobilise another 150 million dollars.

Sector Loans

On the other hand, it had budgeted about 300 million dollars under the commodity aid for the year. This is presumably the industry and agriculture sector loans indicated by the World Bank at the Consortium meeting. But these loans are accompanied by stringent conditionality.

The agriculture sector loan is linked to increase in water charges and decrease in fertiliser subsidy. The industry sector loan is linked to deregulation and operation of public sector enterprises on commercial principles.

World Bank View

The World Bank chief de mission in Islamabad while briefing Press after the Aid-to-Pakistan Consortium meeting had said that the World Bank would take a firm decision on the two proposed sector loans after watching how the loans terms are translated into budgetary proposals for the next year.

According to knowledgeable circles, the budgetary proposals were not in line with the thinking of the World Bank. So the Bank has now reportedly told Pakistan that it will await the completion of the work of the National Deregulation Commission and National Taxation Commission scheduled to submit their recommendations in December this year and would take a decision on the proposed sector loans after the recommendations of the two commissions are implemented.

The IMF vigilance team, which was in the country earlier this month, it also reported to have pointed to the over-ambitious nature of foreign exchange budget and stressed the need to correct the rupee's exchange rate which according to their estimates is still overvalued.

In short, according to experts, Pakistan appears to have landed itself in a situation which leaves it with no option but to accept all the conditions in toto and urgently in order to mobilise the required 400-450 million dollars of concessional assistance for the purpose of financing its immediate import needs.

CSO: 4600/593

PAKISTAN

CONDITION OF COTTON CROP IN SIND SAID NORMAL

Karachi DAWN in English 7 Aug 85 Business Supplement p I

[Text] Karachi, Aug 6: The overall condition of cotton crop in Sind has been found normal so far, according to a survey conducted by Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) team to assess insect-pest situation in major cotton growing areas.

According to the PCCC there were reports from many places of insect pest attacks, but so far the crop is free from any major onslaught.

However, farmers have been advised from time to time, both by PCCC technical staff and provincial extension workers to spray their crops where pest population had crossed the economic injury level.

In this regard contract spraying by a private firm was introduced for the first time in Sind. The firm was reported to have imported latest gadgets and tractor-mounted spray units for the purpose.

Most of the areas in lower and upper Sind have experienced medium to heavy rainfall, but no report of any significant damage to the crop has so far been received from any place.

On the contrary, PCCC said, the present rain has offset the earlier and even the later shortage of canal irrigation water.

Warning

Referring to the need for spraying of standing cottoncrop on account of recent rains and overcast sky, the PCCC warned the farmers to be vigilant against a pest flareup in their areas.

The committee advised the farmers to drain out stagnant rain water as quickly as possible to save the crop from suffocation and physiological disorder.

The crop situation was found quite satisfactory in Hyderabad, Hala, Tando Allahyar areas of Hyderabad district, Samaro, Umerkot, and Digree areas in Tharparkar district, Khyber, Tandoadam, Shahdadpur and Sinjhora areas in Sanghar district and parts of Nawabshah district, according to a latest survey.

The farmers were, however, advised to follow the recommended farm practices and pay proper attention to insect pest control operation in the coming weeks to compensate the earlier setback caused on account of late sowing due to water shortage.

PCCC said that the newly introduced Punjab varieties like Nayab-78, CIM-70, MNH-93 and B-557 may give some trouble to lately sown conventional Sind varieties like Qualandri, NT and K-69/9 if proper monitoring of control operation was not done.

It advised the farmers to take extra precaution to save the crop from pest attack through spray in order to reap a good harvest.

Punjab

The shortfall in the cotton acreage in Punjab is about eight per cent from the target fixed by the Government.

About 36,00,000 acres have come under the cotton crop while the target was 38,00,000 acres. This was stated by the Secretary of Agriculture, Punjab, Mr. Aminullah Chaudhri.

The Secretary said that decline was due to drought during the sowing period but the rains in the monsoon have made the cotton crop position encouraging. He said that due to wet season there was possibility of pest attack on the cotton crop. He said in order to meet such a situation the Government was supplying spray pumps on subsidy rates to the farmers.

He said special teams have been formed to keep vigilance against pest attack on cotton.

CSO: 4600/595

PAKISTAN

1985-1986 DEVELOPMENT PLAN CUT DOWN

Karachi DAWN in English 9 Aug 85 p 1

[Article by M. Ziauddin]

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 8: The allocation for the 1985-86 annual development programme has finally been slashed by Rs 2,620 million to Rs 38,183 million, envisaging a 6.42 per cent cut in the original ADP size of Rs 40,800 million, it was reliably learnt here.

According to earlier decision, an across-the-board cut of 3.5 per cent was to be effected in the total ADP allocations to obtain Rs 1.60 billion for financing the additional concessions and reliefs incorporated in the budget following the suggestions made by the MNAs in their speeches on the Budget in the National Assembly.

The saving of Rs 2,6620 million has been effected by cutting the size of the provincial part of the ADP by Rs 1,520 million, the Federal part by Rs 1,000 million and the Special Development Programme party by Rs 9.50 million.

The Federal ADP, which was originally budgeted at Rs 29,420 million, has now been reduced to Rs 28,416 million, while the original allocation of Rs 9,950 million for the provincial ADP has been decreased to Rs 8.347 million. The original size of Special Development Programme was Rs 1430 million which has now been reduced to Rs 1420.414 million.

The largest cut of Rs 280 million has been made in the Federal ADP allocation for power sector reducing it from Rs 9,147 million to Rs 8867 million.

The second largest cut of Rs 146 million has been envisaged in the water sector bringing down the original budget for this sector from Rs 4,147 million to Rs 4001 million.

Transport and communication sector has suffered a cut of Rs 191 million while the allocation for fuel sector have been reduced by Rs 112 million.

Allocations for education and training sector has been reduced by Rs 67 million while the allocations for fertiliser subsidy has been decreased by Rs 60 million.

However, the Federal ADP allocations for rural development have been enhanced by from Rs 104 million to Rs 139 million while allocations for industry have been increased from Rs 669 million to Rs 672 million.

PAKISTAN

LABOR UNION LEADER TALKS ABOUT UNION RIVALRY

Karachi DAWN in English 9 Aug 85 p 2

[Text] Lahore, Aug 8: The Secretary-General of the Quaid-i-Azam Labour Federation, Mr Mohammad Rashid Abbasi, said here on Thursday that more trade unions in the National Labour Federation had contacted him to seek QLF membership as they were fed up with Jamaat-i-Islami interference in their organisations.

Addressing a news conference, Mr Abbasi said that 26 of the 32 trade unions in city had already joined the QLF. As for the Lahore zone, about 30 of the remaining 40 unions wanted to quit the National Labour Federation. According to him the QLF was carved out of the NLF as its trade union leaders were opposed to the Jamaat's objective of using the trade union forum for its political ends.

As for the NLF claim that most of the unions announcing affiliation with the QLF had no affiliation with the NLF and that some of the unions were wrongly implicated by the QLF, the federation's Secretary-General said that the NLF was giving a wrong picture altogether. He said that some of the leaders announcing defection from the QLF were either harassed by NLF leaders or a worker here and a worker there were presented as the genuine office-bearers of the National Labour Federation.

He said that the federation had set up a committee to look into the problems of the workers of the sugar industry. He said that the federation would present a plan for a viable solution of the workers' problems.

The federation also announced a programme to celebrate Independence Day.

CSO: 4600/597

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OPPOSITION GROUP--Lahore, Aug. 1: With the Government likely to adopt the (defunct) Pakistan Muslim League as its parliamentary party in the National Assembly, members who have decided to keep away from the Treasury Benches have expedited their efforts to create an Opposition group in the Assembly. A meeting of "like-minded" members is likely to be held on August 7 or the following day in Islamabad which is expected to elect a "Leader of the Opposition" and decide other matters. According to Mr Mumtaz Ahmad Tarar, MNA, the Opposition group is likely to have a strength of about 40 members. Among those expected to join the group are Begum Abida Hussain, Haji Saifullah, Air Marshal (retd) Nur Khan, Mr Javed Hashmi and Raja Shahid Zafar. Although the situation is still fluid, Mr Tarar guessed that the leader of the Opposition could be any of these. Mr Tarar said that he visualised that the Punjab was going to play a different role in the National Assembly this time. "Unlike the past, the Punjab will produce a leader of the Opposition in the Assembly," he said. Mr. Mumtaz Tarar, who said that he had declined to sign the form for the Pakistan Muslim League parliamentary group, he anticipated that the government would be able to muster substantial support in the National Assembly, but not quite as much as it expected. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 2 Aug 85 p 1]

PUNJAB: RESOURCES SHORTFALL DENIED--Lahore, Aug 1: The Chairman, Planning and Development Board, Punjab, Mr Khalid Jawed, has denied Press reports that the Punjab expects a shortfall of 15 to 20 per cent in the resources to be made available to it by the Federal Government this year. Contradicting these reports, he said that no indication had been received regarding a possible reduction of 15 to 20 per cent in the resources to be made available by the Federal Government to the Punjab. "The only intimation so far in this respect is regarding a cut of the order of 3.5 per cent. Even this shortfall in resources of Punjab is being reconsidered and may be made up," Mr Khalid Jawed said. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 2 Aug 85 p 2]

SAHIWAL TO HAVE AIRPORT--Lahore, Aug. 1: An airport will be constructed at Sahiwal. The airport will be functional by the end of 1988. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 2 Aug 85 p 2]

PLEA TO REPEAL PRESS ORDINANCE--Larkana, Aug 1: Maulana Jan Mohammad Abbasi, Naib Amir, defunct Jamaat Islami, has said repeal of Press and Publication Ordinance is essential for promotion of freedom of Press and development of newspaper industry. Speaking at "Meet-the-Press" programme at local Press

Club, he said Jamaat Islami fully supports freedom of Press and favoured the journalists in all respect. He said when National and Provincial assemblies came into existence, continuation of Martial Law was not justified. Interest of the country, he continued, suffered owing to Martial Law and now it had become essential to launch a peaceful movement to end Martial Law. Formation of special committees could only prove tool to prolong Martial Law as it had been the practice that whenever Government desired to defer any problem committees or commissions were set up. He also said that water distribution problem be solved through mutual discussion and not through sentiments so that Sind could get its due and just share of water. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 2 Aug 85 p 3]

KHYBER AGENCY AGREEMENT—Peshawar, Aug 1: A fresh written agreement was signed between prominent tribal elders of Khyber Agency and representatives of the administration on July 28 last to end distrust existing between the two for the last few months. According to a Press release issued here, the agreement was signed by the Commissioner, Peshawar, and Political Agent, Khyber Agency, on behalf of the provincial administration, and Haji Mohammad Gulab, Haji Zaman Khan, Sheikh Gul, on behalf of the tribes. It may be mentioned that a renowned saint of the area, Sheikh Gul, had initiated a dialogue between the Government and the tribal elders to end the stalemate and a similar agreement had been reached between the parties last month. But, according to tribal elders, the tribesmen were not satisfied with the administration's response. Therefore, a fresh dialogue was held which paved the way for another agreement. The latest settlement underlines the need for mutual trust on the basis of respect of separate and independent status of the tribes and non-interference by the administration in the internal affairs of the tribes. The Government and the tribes would honour and implement in letter and in spirit existing treaties. The agreement says further that both the Government and the tribesmen would abide by principles laid down in the Holy Quran and the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet, and that the tribes men would maintain their loyalty to the federation of Pakistan. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 2 Aug 85 p 17]

MUSLIM LEAGUE REORGANIZATION CRITICIZED—Multan, Aug 1: Syed Mohammad Kaswar Gardezi, Secretary General of the banned Pakistan National Party, has strongly criticized the "reorganisation" of the Muslim League by the present regime. Talking to this correspondent, Mr. Gardezi said first of all it was a matter of great surprise that parliamentarians elected in a partyless election were now joining a political party, while the Government claimed the electorate had voted them in because they had no party affiliation. Therefore, they should go to polls once again to get their new position ratified by the people. Mr Gardezi maintained that the reorganised Muslim League would pose no threat to any political force in the country, but may jeopardise the position of its reorganisers themselves, for its membership would not go beyond a few hundred. Even the League developed by the late Ayub Khan had been a failure despite containing 80,000 BD members, because it had no roots in the people. The same fate will befall the new party, Mr. Gardezi predicted. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 2 Aug 85 p 17]

MUSLIM LEAGUE PARLIAMENTARY PARTY--Lahore, Aug. 1: Except for four members of the National Assembly from Lahore, the rest are stated to have expressed their willingness to join the Pakistan Muslim League parliamentary party by affixing their signatures to the forms designed for the purpose. Three of the four, Syed Asad Gilani, Hafiz Salman Butt and Mr Liaqat Baluch, belong to the Jamaat-i-Islami, while the fourth member from Lahore suburbs, Haji Mohammad Asghar, also declined to sign the form. Most of the MNAs from Lahore, Gujranwala and Faisalabad divisions who met the Prime Minister on Wednesday at the Governor's House were willing to join the Muslim League parliamentary party, and some of them signed the form on the spot. But several of them are learnt to have stated that they would make their decision known to the Government in a couple of days. It is reliably learnt that Mian Abdul Rauf from Sheikhpura and Mr Hamza from Toba Tek Singh also declined to sign the form. However, they are learnt to have assured the Government that they would support the Treasury Benches in the National Assembly. The Government is expected to receive the support of about 20 MNAs. Meanwhile, the Prime Minister is stated to have assured members of the National Assembly during his meeting with them here on Wednesday that he had already obtained the permission of Pir Sahib of Pagara for adopting the PML as the parliamentary party in the National Assembly. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 2 Aug 85 p 20]

MRD AGITATION PLANS DENIED--Karachi, Aug 6: Mr Mairaj Khalid, a former Chief Minister of Punjab and a leader of the banned PPP, has said that MRD has no plans to start an agitation from Aug 14 next. Clarifying the statement of Mr Yahya Bakhtiar, the current convenor of the MRD, he said that the MRD constituents have been asked to hold meetings and rallies on Independence Day to renew their commitment to civil liberties and other democratic rights of the people. Talking to newsmen on Tuesday, he said that the banned PPP was "still strong in the Punjab and it could not be ignored." He did not agree with a questioner that the banned PPP has lost some grounds in Punjab as a result of Rao Rashid's recent interview and contended that his interview was not an issue at all. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 7 Aug 85 p 2]

LEADER'S RELEASE URGED--Hyderabad, Aug 6: Nine lawyers of Hyderabad District Bar Association have urged the Government to set free Makhdoom Khaliquzzaman immediately so that he could attend late Shah Nawaz's burial. They are Muzaffer Sadiq Bhatti, Ghulam Mustafa Bhutto, Miss Noor Naz Agha, Zaheuddin Ghumman, Abdul Sattar Kazi, Rashid Ahmed Sheikh, Abdul Rehman Sheikh, Bashir Ahmed, and Sadaqat Ali Ansari. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 7 Aug 85 p 4]

OFFICIAL PROMOTED--Islamabad, Aug 6: Col Siddique Salik, President's Press Secretary and the Acting Director, Inter-Services Public Relations Directorate, has been promoted to the rank of Brigadier. He has assumed the appointment of the Director of the ISPR. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 7 Aug 85 p 4]

MINISTER ON PARTY POSITION--Islamabad, Aug 6: Dr Mahbubul Haq, the Federal Finance and Planning Minister, is not being appointed secretary-general of the proposed ruling party, it was authoritatively learnt here on Tuesday. Enquiries made from sources close to the Finance and Planning Minister about the reported appointment revealed that, when contacted, Dr Mahbubul Haq said

that he had not been offered such an office in the ruling party. The same sources said that Dr Haq said he believed that he was neither capable of holding such a key political office nor had he been offered one. Dr Haq, a reputed economist, has been elected to the Senate as a technocrat, and apparently wishes to remain just that. It may, however, be recalled that Dr Mahbubul Haq has already been named Chairman of the Prime Minister's parliamentary group's Manifesto Committee, apparently because the Prime Minister attaches special importance to economic development for efficient functioning of a political system. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 7 Aug 85 p 4]

TRADE UNION BODIES MERGE--Karachi, Aug 6: Four Trade Union Federations have decided to merge into one Federation to forge unity among the workers. These federations are: Joint Labour Federation, United Workers Federation, Pakistan Workers Federation and Pakistan Labour Organisation, says a Press release. A 12-member re-organisation committee has been formed with Mr Mohammad Yaqoob as its Convenor. Other members are: Dr Shamoun, Mr Karamat Ali, Moula Bux, Mr Bashir Ahmad, Mr Mahboob Ali, Mr S. P. Lodhi, Mr Aziz Memon, Mr Habib Junaidi, Mr Shafiq Qureshi, Mr Gul Rehman and Habi Ahmad. Besides, an 8-member constitution committee with Mr S. P. Lodhi as its Chairman and a 4-member Co-ordination committee with Mr Karamat Ali as its head, were also formed. The reason for the merger was to forge unity among working class to redress their grievances effectively and to give a national character to the trade union. [Excerpt] [Karachi DAWN in English 7 Aug 85 p 6]

PPP ON SBFP SLOGAN--Rawalpindi, Aug 6: Current acting convener of MRD and Baluchistan chief of the Pakistan Peoples Party, Mr Yahya Bakhtiar, said on Tuesday that the party's Central Executive Committee meeting to be chaired by Ms Benazir Bhutto after her arrival here will discuss in depth the confederation slogan raised by Mumtaz Bhutto and Hafeez Pirzada. Mr Bakhtiar, who flew into town for a brief stay, was talking to newsmen at this hotel on Tuesday evening. Abdul Hafeez Pirzada and Mumtaz Bhutto are both very senior party leaders, against whom the leadership can take any action only after hearing them out personally, he said. Mr Bakhtiar said that Mumtaz Bhutto will be consulted in this connection soon after his arrival in Pakistan, which is expected very shortly. He reiterated that the PPP was against the confederation slogan. Mr Bakhtiar regretted the restrictions imposed by the Government to stop people from reaching Larkana. He said the rulers wanted to exploit the issue of Shahnawaz's burial to show the world that martial law was necessary for the country, adding that the PPP leadership had no plan to create a law and order situation on the occasion of the burial. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 7 Aug 85 p 8]

JI MEN ARRESTED--Karachi, Aug 8: About 70 workers of the banned Jamaat-i-Islami were rounded up on Thursday from different spots as they tried to hold demonstration against the continuation of martial law and for supremacy of Islamic Shariat. About 18 persons were arrested from PECHS Nursery, 22 from Natha Khan Both, 18 from Malir and 12 from Hussainabad. They were booked under Section 188, violation of Section 144 banning the assembly of more than 5 persons. The Jamaat-i-Islami workers were carrying banners and placards in support of the 4-point demands. They were holding rallies and demonstrations for immediate lifting of martial law, supremacy of Shariat, revival of the 1973 Constitution, restoration of democracy, and revival of political parties and political activities. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 9 Aug 85 p 20]

AIR AGREEMENT WITH THAILAND--Pakistan and Thailand signed in Karachi today a memorandum of understanding to amend the agreement on air services between the two countries. This agreement on air services between the two countries. This agreement was first signed in 1969 and amended in 1972 and 1978. Under the new agreement, Thai International Airlines will obtain the right to take the passengers from Karachi to Muscat. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Aug 85 BK]

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